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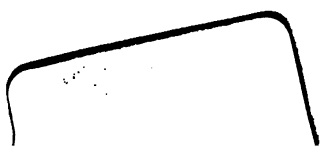
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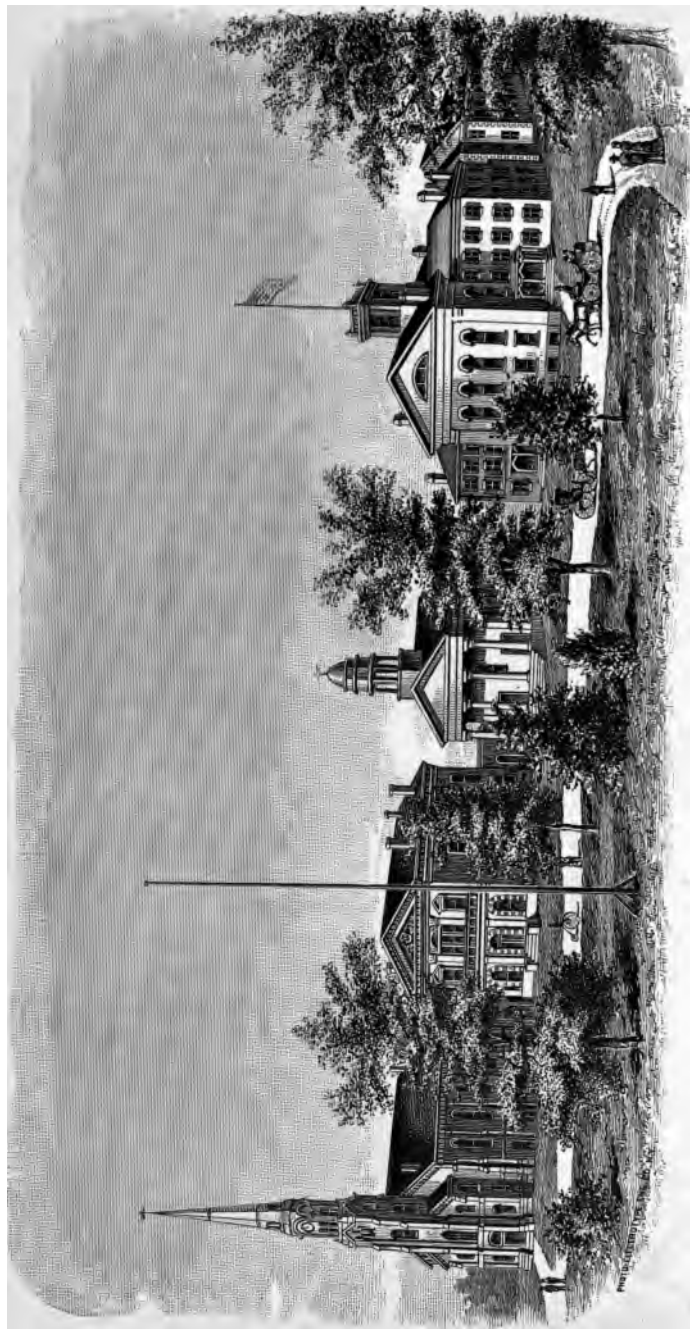


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THE
LEICESTER ACADEMY
CENTENARY
1884.





Congregational Church.

Town Hall & Public Library.

Unitarian Church.

Leicester Academy.

WASHBURN SQUARE.

With Compliments of

W. W. Rice.

LEICESTER ACADEMY

HELD

SEPTEMBER 4, 1884,

INCLUDING THE

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

BY

HON. WILLIAM W. RICE,

AND

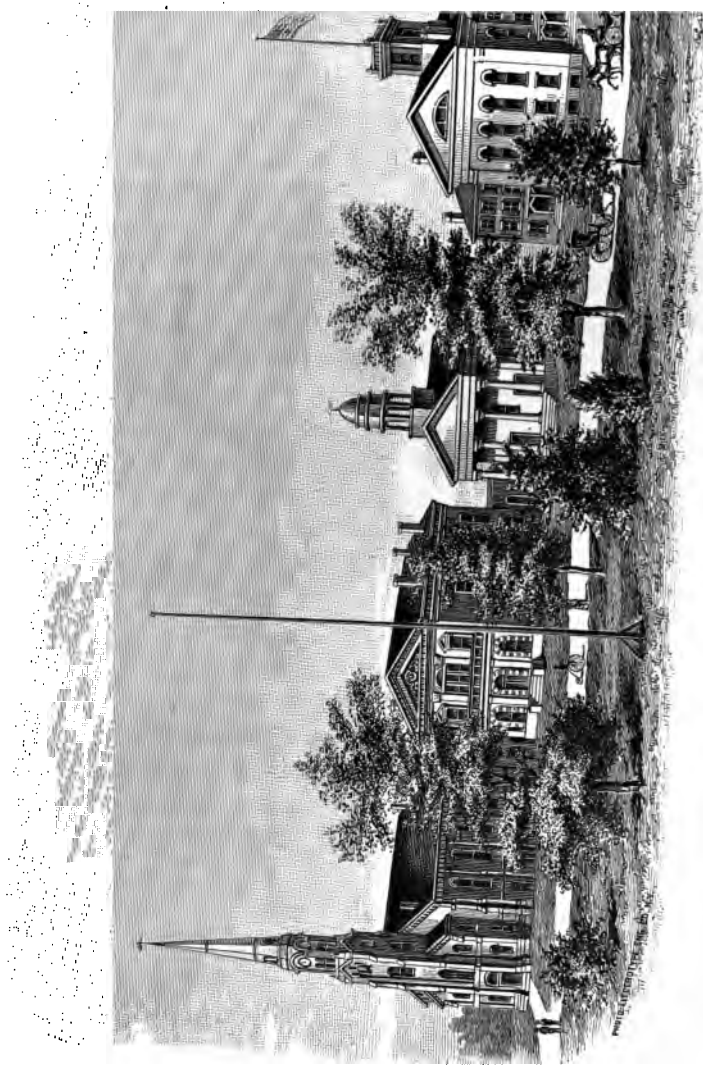
THE POEM

BY

REV. THOMAS HILL, D.D.

WITH HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT.

WORCESTER, MASS.:
PRINTED BY CHARLES HAMILTON,
311 MAIN STREET.
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THE LEICESTER ACADEMY

CENTENARY.

ABSTRACT OF RECORDS.

IN August, 1883, the Executive Committee of the Trustees of Leicester Academy, having received from one of their number a note in reference to a public celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Academy, met and considered the subject, and requested the President to communicate with the other Trustees, obtain their views, and report to the Executive Committee.

At a subsequent meeting of the Committee, after hearing a report from the President and further discussing the question, it was

Voted, To recommend to the full Board of Trustees, at their annual meeting in October next, that the centennial year of the Academy be observed by some public exercises of commemoration.

Voted, That Messrs. May and Coolidge be a committee to report to the Trustees a general plan for such observance, and to suggest the name of a gentleman to be invited to give the principal address on the occasion.

At the annual meeting of the Trustees, held in Murdock Hall, in the Academy, October 24, 1883, Rev. S. May, for the Committee on a Centennial Celebration, reported as follows:—

To the Trustees of the Academy:

GENTLEMEN:—With the year 1884, one hundred years will have gone since Leicester Academy was incorporated and opened as a school of advanced learning. It has seemed to your Executive Committee that the close of its first century will be an occasion when the friends of the Academy will desire and expect that a fitting commemoration of its history and past work shall be made. It is their judgment that this

should be done as an act of justice to the courage and undaunted spirit of those who laid the foundation of the school, and who stood its constant and generous friends during the earlier and trying years of its struggle for a foothold and for the necessary means of doing its work. It seems to your Committee to be also and equally due to the present position and future usefulness of the Academy, that this hundredth anniversary shall not pass unobserved. The public generally, of this vicinity and this State at least, will not question the abundant claim the Academy has to such commemoration; and will certainly justify its Trustees and officers in making it as widely known and as significant as possible. Should the Trustees concur in these views, the Executive Committee have further to present, for their consideration, a general plan for the celebration suggested, together with the name of a gentleman eminently qualified to give the principal address on the occasion.

On behalf of the Executive Committee the subject is presented without further formality.

SAM'L MAY,
A. H. COOLIDGE,
Sub-Committee.

The report was accepted, and the recommendation therein made for a public commemoration was unanimously adopted.

It was further

Voted, That the public celebration, now agreed upon, be held in September next, on such day as the Executive Committee shall set.

Voted, That the Executive Committee, consisting of the Trustees resident in Leicester, be a committee to make all necessary arrangements for the occasion, with authority to call to their aid the help of other members of the Board of Trustees.

Subsequently Joseph Murdock, Esq. was chosen Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

Rev. Mr. May, in behalf of the Executive Committee, nominated the Hon. William W. Rice of Worcester to deliver the historical address.

On motion of J. L. Partridge, Esq. it was

Voted, That Hon. W. W. Rice be requested to deliver the oration on the occasion.

At subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee, Thursday, the fourth of September, was fixed upon as the anniversary day; Rev. C. M. Lamson, one of the Trustees, was appointed

Chaplain of the day; the Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., of Portland, who had been a student in the Academy, and was fitted here for college, was invited to give a poem on the occasion; Rev. A. Huntington Clapp, D.D., of New York, who had also been a pupil and was fitted here for college, was invited to be President of the day; and Rev. A. C. Denison, of Middlefield, Ct., a former trustee, was invited to write a hymn to be sung in the public exercises.

Col. John Nelson Partridge, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was appointed Chief Marshal of the day; and Edward May, U. S. N., and Henry R. Denny, U. S. Marshal of Minnesota, were appointed Aids.

VOTES were further passed, from time to time, as follows :

— That Mr. Coolidge be a committee to prepare a circular of invitation, to be sent to every living pupil, past and present, of the Academy, and to all who have been officially connected therewith, so far as their present places of abode can be ascertained;—the invitation to be signed by the President and Secretary on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

— That the proposed celebration be advertised as widely as possible, and that all persons heretofore in any way connected with the Academy be publicly invited to send their names and present address to Hon. Charles A. Denny at Leicester; who also was appointed a committee on the necessary printing, mailing, and correspondence; with authority to call for aid from all persons interested in holding this centennial commemoration.

— That Mr. Denny be requested to make a record of all names thus obtained, for permanent use and preservation.

— That Messrs. Murdock, Salisbury, and Denny be a committee to arrange for the due entertainment of all who may attend the celebration, and to make provision for a dinner.

— That Messrs. Coolidge, May, and Green be a committee on the order of the public exercises, to invite speakers for the dinner table, and to secure a hearing at that time for the largest possible number of the graduates of the Academy.

— That a social meeting of all attending the celebration be held in the evening in the Academy building.

— That the services of the Leicester Cornet Band be engaged for the day of the celebration.

It is due to truth to say that all these votes and all the proposed arrangements were carried out with promptness, diligence, and to a prosperous issue. No amount of time and

effort was considered too great to be given, and cheerfully given, to make the occasion successful. It soon became evident that the Trustees would have an extensive and generous co-operation from the past pupils of the institution. The residents upon Leicester hill were animated with a common purpose to contribute whatever was in their power to the pleasure, comfort, and satisfaction of those who might assemble that day.

And the day, when it came, proved to be in all respects well-adapted to such a public gathering. The mercury in the thermometer, indeed, reached nearly to ninety degrees; but a moderate, steady westerly breeze tempered the sun's rays so as to prevent anything like serious discomfort.

There were many arrivals of former pupils on the day and evening previous, who were at once welcomed to friendly homes in the town.

By ten o'clock A. M. of the 4th of September the Academy building was thronged with guests from abroad; and, as others arrived, the Academy grounds and the grove in front of the Academy soon became filled with a multitude. Seated in a chair beneath the shading trees was the venerable Edmund J. Mills of Sutton, now in his 95th year. He had been a pupil of the Academy in 1803. He was one of the first to arrive, and he remained, an interested participant in the day's doings, through the greater part of the exercises.

The following gentlemen acted as Marshals during the day:

COLONEL JOHN N. PARTRIDGE, CHIEF.

AIDS:

EDWARD MAY, U. S. N.

HENRY R. DENNY, U. S. Marshal, Minnesota.

JEROME BOTTOMLY,

JOSEPH A. DODGE,

ARTHUR E. GRAY,

CHARLES L. GATES,

GEORGE A. GRAY,

HENRY L. WATSON,

GEORGE H. HOLDEN,

DANIEL KENT,

WALTER WARREN,

EDGAR M. BOND,

JULIUS O. MURDOCK,

ALEXANDER DEWITT,

J. RUSSELL MAY,

J. BRADFORD SARGENT,

CLARENCE W. GROSVENOR,

FRANK MANN,

JULIUS W. WARREN,

EDWIN L. WATSON.

The procession being formed, the march from the Academy to the First Congregational Church was immediately taken up, to the music of the band, the course being over the outer border of the common and across the spot where the first Academy—the Lopez building—had stood. The seating in the church was accomplished quickly; the house was completely filled; and the exercises proceeded at once.

These were introduced by music from the Leicester Cornet Band, which in full numbers had taken position in the gallery.

The Chaplain of the day, Rev. C. M. Lamson of Worcester, read the twenty-fourth Psalm; and offered earnest and impressive prayer.

The Address of Welcome was then given by the President of the Board of Trustees, Rev. A. H. Coolidge of Leicester.

The Old Hundredth hymn was sung by the congregation, as follows,—Parkman T. Denny, Esq. of Leicester, leading at the organ :

With one consent let all the earth
To God their cheerful voices raise;
Glad homage pay with awful mirth,
And sing before Him songs of praise.

For He's the Lord supremely good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth, which always firmly stood,
To endless ages shall endure.

The Historical Address, by Hon. William W. Rice of Worcester, followed. Mr. Rice spoke with animation and enthusiasm, occasionally omitting passages which he had written, occupying an hour and a half in the delivery, and having the full attention of the great assembly to the close.

The entire congregation, again standing, then sang, to the tune "Portuguese Hymn," the following

H Y M N ,

Written for the occasion by Rev. A. C. Denison.

I.

O God of our fathers, thou Ancient of days,
To thee in thanksgiving our voices we raise,
On this sacred hill where ten decades has stood
This temple of learning by temples of God.

II.

War's dark, lurid clouds were just passing away
With their deep-rolling thunder and lightning's fierce play,
When this Arch of Triumph arose to men's eyes,
God's bright Bow of Promise, against the dark skies.

III.

On this arch we may read how more blessed by far
Are the triumphs of peace than the glories of war;
And we learn from their shrines that here stand side by side
How Religion and Science in concord abide.

IV.

O God of our fathers, with blessings still crown
This Temple of learning, and make it thine own;
Long centuries may our Academy prove
A portal that leads to thy Temple above!

The Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., then delivered a Poem, which he had entitled "Prosing in Rhyme."

The Address of Welcome, the Historical Address, and the Poem immediately follow.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

BY REV. A. H. COOLIDGE.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Alumnae and Alumni
of Leicester Academy:*

I CONGRATULATE you on your return to-day to this old home, this institution that has stood a hundred years. There could hardly be a more delightful reunion than this, which calls together the sons and daughters of Leicester Academy.

I can say for the Trustees, that we look upon this concourse of men and women with a kind of fatherly pride. You remember that one of Luther's teachers used, whenever he came into the school-room, to lift his cap and salute his pupils. "For," he said, "there are among these boys men whom God will one day make burgomasters, chancellors, doctors and magistrates. Although you do not see them with the badges of their dignity, it is right that you should treat them with respect." What he simply foresaw in imagination we have before our eyes to-day as an actual reality. You are all here, with your honors, your titles, and your life-histories. You have come representing the majesty of the old commonwealth, the college, public institutions and departments, and the soldierly patriotism of our country. You have come from the halls of legislation, from the bench, the pulpit, and the bar, from your practice, your schools, your business, your farms, and your homes, men of note and honorable women not a few, to this old place where you once were only promising boys and girls. You may have looked small and unimportant, then, and I have no doubt there were times when you felt so, especially when the teacher was exacting, and you had a poor lesson, or

when your knees smote together on the platform as you tried to "speak your" first "piece" and broke down in the middle of it, or when the august Board of Trustees came in, before their annual dinner, to watch your convulsive struggles with Greek and Latin, or your stumbling over affected quadratics or the *pons asinorum*. As you recall those experiences you say, "We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

But how is it now? Now those same boys and girls that sat on the hard seats of the old Academy, behind the rough benches that long retained the carved initials of their names, are here before us, representative men and women of our country.

We are glad to see you. We rejoice in your victories. We are pleased if you have more understanding than all your teachers. And we are cheered by this expression of your regard for the old Academy, which is doing for others now what it did for you then. We commend her to your generous interest on this centennial anniversary. She needs your influence and your good will. We wish you, living, to be her helpful friends, and dying, to "remember her in your wills." For it is the profound conviction of many of our most thoughtful minds that our academies have in the century before us, when our system of schools becomes more exactly adjusted to the wants of the people, a future of usefulness and prosperity peculiarly their own.

While arranging the details of this celebration, we have often thought of some, who, if they were living, would have been most deeply interested in it, especially of three, with whom in all your minds this Academy is identified: Dr. John Nelson, for fifty-nine years a member of the Board of Trustees, whose presence was always a benediction; Mr. James Smith to whose wise liberality we are thus far most largely indebted for our endowment; and Joseph A. Denny, Esq., our far-sighted treasurer, who pre-eminently could say of the affairs of Leicester Academy, "*quorum pars magna fui*."

Many of you too will experience a sense of loneliness to-day, as you move amid these familiar scenes, and look into the

faces around you. And some may even take up the poet's lament,

“ When I remember all
The friends so linked together,
I've seen around me fall
Like leaves in wintry weather,
I feel like one
Who treads alone
Some banquet hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled,
Whose garlands dead,
And all but he departed.”

The fathers, where are they? It is left for us their children to greet you on this most beautiful and auspicious day, and, in behalf of the Trustees and the Academy, I extend to you a warm and hearty welcome. We welcome our former associates on the Board of Trustees. We welcome these teachers who have left the impress of their character and scholarship on so many lives. We welcome this large body of men and women, the sons and daughters of old Leicester Academy, who have returned to Leicester Hill to-day, as the tribes of old came up to Jerusalem. Especially do we greet these venerable men and women who have come down to us from a former century, and whose presence seems to bring us nearer the events we celebrate. You are all welcome, thrice welcome to the old Academy, to our homes and to our hearts!



HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

BY HON. WILLIAM W. RICE.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen
of the Board of Trustees:*

You have bidden me deliver to-day an historical address, in celebration of the centennial year of Leicester Academy, and I have sanctioned your presumptuous mandate by accepting the task. It would have been more appropriate, had your selection fallen on one longer and more intimately connected with the institution; but I have reflected that any one standing here could do little more than cull, from records already published, the more salient facts of the origin and progress of our Academy, and set them in some degree of order along the vanished years. Whatever be the success with which I shall accomplish this attempt, I have at least undertaken it with a heart warm with many tender memories and associations, and with an earnest aspiration, that the light, which has shone here so brightly for a hundred years, shall not go out or grow dim in the hundred years to come.

The *Worcester Spy* of June 6th, 1782 contains a notice of the drowning of Aaron Lopez, of Leicester, on the twenty-eighth of the preceding month, by being thrown from his gig into a brook where he was watering his horse, in Smithfield, Rhode Island, on his way from Leicester to Providence.

To this unfortunate casualty we can trace the line of events which have led to this celebration. Mr. Lopez was a Portuguese Jew, from Newport; a gentleman of

education, wealth and great business ability. He was one of the merchant princes whose enterprise had made Newport, at the date of the Revolution, the rival, at least, of New York in commercial business and prosperity. During the possession of the city by the British, many of these merchants left it to avoid the annoyances and exactions to which they were subjected. Aaron Lopez was one of these. With about seventy persons, relatives, friends and dependants, he came to Leicester, early in 1777. Seven years before, Ezekiel Fosgate had bought a lot of land of Rev. Benjamin Conklin, next easterly from the meeting-house lot, containing about half an acre, and extending six rods, on the northerly side of the main road. On this lot he built the first store building in Leicester.¹ In 1772 he sold the estate to Joseph Allen, who built a house upon it, east of the store. Lopez bought it of Mr. Allen and his partner Henry Bass, February 7, 1777, for two hundred pounds.² In May, 1778, he bought of Mr. Conklin the adjoining half-acre on the east, running seven rods on the road. The Lopez estate, therefore, contained an acre, and extended thirteen rods easterly from the meeting-house land to a point seven rods from the southwesterly corner of the Flint estate. On this land, partly on the first and partly on the second purchase, Lopez erected a building extending on the street about seventy-five feet. It is said that the Allen house was included in the structure. If so, it formed, probably, the west wing. The lower story of the centre was used for a store, the rest for tenements.

As I was coming here this morning, Hon. Jonathan D. Wheeler handed me a sketch of this building, executed in 1785 by his uncle Jonathan Wheeler, then a student in the academy, which I now take pleasure in exhibiting

¹ See Appendix, note 1. ² See Appendix, note 2.

to the audience as probably the only representation of the front of the Lopez mansion now in existence.¹

Here Lopez "kept store" on a scale before, and I think I may add or since, unknown in Leicester. His stock of goods, at his decease, was valued at twelve thousand dollars.

I used to hear it said by those who remembered his residence here, that on Saturday afternoons the sides of the road, on both slopes of the hill, were lined with the wagons of those who had come to trade at the Jew's store; a statement to which I give more easy credit, since learning, on the authority of the President of our Board, that twelve hundred sleighs were actually counted around the Common on the occasion of Dr. Nelson's ordination in 1812.

Stirring memories of the old times might well come back to us as we moved in procession over the site of the old mansion on the quiet common, this morning. There was the house of Joseph Allen, nephew and correspondent of Samuel Adams, within which Washburn, Henshaw, Denny, Sargent, Southgate, and their patriot compeers were wont to gather to discuss the great themes with which they had to deal. By it on the nineteenth of April, 1775, rode the mysterious horseman shouting the battle-cry of Lexington and Concord. There in the afternoon of the same day two companies of yeomen militia under Washburn and Newhall stood with bared heads while their beloved pastor, Benjamin Conklin, invoked God's blessing upon them marching to drive from the soil of their Commonwealth those who had come to enslave it. During the ensuing night the women kept candles burning in the windows to guide and cheer the men of Spencer and Brookfield as they hurried past in eager haste to overtake the Leicester companies just in

¹ See Appendix, note 3.

advance. Later came, as we have seen for a brief sojourn, the restless traders of the alien race, their faces forever sad with the memory of ages of persecution, but their eyes forever bright with the genius to suffer and succeed; and later yet, the thoughtful youth of the county, our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, toiling over unwonted tasks that they might win for themselves and their children the high prizes of liberal education.

The death of Lopez and the restoration of peace broke up the Jew colony in Leicester. Joseph Lopez, administrator of Aaron, advertised the estate for sale by public auction March 13th, 1783. The auctioneers of those days are not surpassed by those who have succeeded them in the same conspicuous vocation,—the long, rambling, composite building, its first story but seven and a half feet high, and its windows of 6 x 8 glass, was described as a “large, commodious, double mansion and a noted place for trade.” The advertisement did not sell it for trade. It did better. It attracted the attention of Ebenezer Crafts of Sturbridge, and Jacob Davis of Charlton, who bought the Lopez estate May 7, 1783, for five hundred and fifteen pounds, that they might establish an academy “for the purpose of promoting piety and learning.” Asa Sprague of Spencer was joined with them in the deed, but he quit-claimed his interest to Crafts the following September, and the names of Crafts and Davis stand on the roll of honor, with those of Dummer and the Phillipses, as the founders of the first academies in Massachusetts.

Nineteen months before this purchase, Cornwallis had surrendered his sword to General Lincoln. The British army had not yet evacuated New York. Not until the next September was the definitive Treaty of Peace with England signed; not until November did Washington lay down his commission at Annapolis. Independence had been won, but apparently at the sacrifice of almost

everything else. The resources of the confederation had been utterly exhausted. France had made her last loan, and was jealous of the negotiations for peace, conducted as she thought with too little regard for her advice and interests. The soldiers were unpaid and dissatisfied; Washington was watching and guarding against their discontent, and the jealousies and ambitions of their officers. Hamilton was wrestling with the great problems of finance, and the establishment out of chaos of a firm and stable government.

Leicester was a town of one hundred and fifty houses and less than one thousand inhabitants. The only house on the hill easterly of the Lopez estate was that of Rev. Benjamin Conklin, on the site now occupied by Rev. Samuel May; a few rods to the west was the old meeting-house, without bell or belfry; opposite it on the south, was the house erected by Mr. Waite for a tavern, and last occupied as a store by Rivera, a friend and kinsman of Lopez; and on the west, where Mr. Knight's house now stands, was the first tavern in town, erected by Nathaniel Richardson, and then occupied by Reuben Swan; these buildings constituted the village on the hill. Go down the hill on the east, through the woods, and half way down, on the north, was a house belonging to Peter Sylvester; at the foot on the same side was the Earle house, and Vickery's house on the opposite side. Less than a mile farther was a small brook, somewhat profuse and noisy in wet weather, but often dry in Summer, now known as Kettle brook. On it was a small saw-mill, and a little farther down a grist-mill belonging to Mr. John Sargent. The "dusty miller" in those days was a manufacturer of repute and importance, whose industry was encouraged by town bounties and other favors. Six years later an English apprentice boy, named Samuel Slater, imported in his brain (the only way England, not so free-trade then as now, would permit) the first cotton

mill set up in America. If you continued your trip four miles farther you would come to a pretty country village, named Worcester, in which were "two churches, a court-house and a strong stone gaol." It was the shire town of the county, an honor which Lancaster had refused to share with it, "lest the morals of its people should be corrupted." Worcester had about two thousand inhabitants. They were mostly farmers, but some of them were engaged in trade. They made pot and pearl ash, which they carried to Boston in wagons for export, and brought back molasses, rum and other necessities of life.

But then, as now, currents of strong pure air moved vigorously about Leicester hill. Away to the south over wood and water stretched the magnificent landscape, dotted with fewer farm-houses than now, but never other than beautiful; from the west, the rays of the setting sun slanted over Mount Pleasant, fitly named, upon which stood the stately mansion, built ten years before by Col. Henshaw of lumber brought from Boston. Surely this was a goodly spot, one of the high places of the land, where strong men and fair women might well live, and to which youth of both sexes could repair, sure of every natural advantage, to obtain that education which our fathers prized next to liberty and piety. We may well be proud of our fathers. Never was richer blood than that which flowed in the veins of the men who came to Massachusetts Bay from 1630 to 1645. Farmers and mechanics most of them, from the soil, filled with the strength of the soil, they contended for the right to worship, to learn, to grow towards the stature of perfect manhood. Their kith and kin, left behind in England, fought there the battle of the people against hereditary power and wealth with resplendent courage and invincible strength. Against their Ironsides the curled and jewelled chivalry of England dashed as vainly as waves against the rock. The men who came to Massachusetts fought another section

of the same great battle, on a freer and more adventurous field, with no less high purpose and heroic daring. During a hundred and fifty years they waged the contest, through dangers and trials and sufferings such as men had never endured before and survived.

We sometimes regard the men of the Revolution as rude and uncultured. So, in a sense, they were, but they were trained men, physically, mentally, morally, as no others were or could be. Clad in rustic garb, their nerves did not quiver at Bunker Hill as they looked down their muskets at the advancing red-coats, and held their fire till they could see the whites of their enemies' eyes. Sitting in town meeting, they suggested, often in rough, misspelled, ungrammatical phrase, the principles of self-government afterwards woven into the charters of States and Nation. Worshipping in their humble churches, with their muskets by their side, they prayed for the time when near the church, which it was their first care to build, the school-house should stand, through which their children might enter into that fair domain of learning into which their feet could never go, but the glories of which their eyes could see from the Pisgah heights unto which the Lord had led them.

The clergymen of Massachusetts had always been learned men. Many of them were graduates of the English universities, and were scholars of the first rank. They established schools in the older and larger towns where young men could be fitted for college, but these were not available to the children of the pioneers who had pushed forward into the wilderness. They grew up strong, brave, and thoughtful, but to a great extent uneducated. Now and then the village parson, probably the only college-educated man in town, would lend some aspiring boy his well-thumbed Latin grammar, and try to teach him the rudiments of the language sufficiently to enable him to enter college, generally that he might

become a village parson himself; a position then of vastly greater influence and respect than now, not because ministers were greater or wiser men, but because, in the rural sections more especially, they were the only college-educated men. Common-school instruction was limited to teaching to read and write in a pretty simple way, with a few lessons in ciphering and geography, given by the master orally, or from manuscript prepared or somehow obtained by himself. Pike's Arithmetic, Murray's Grammar, and Morse's Geography, the first school-books in New England, were not published until after 1790.

But this partial and meagre system of education was not what our fathers sought, or with which they would long be content. They willed that the fair fruit which grew on the tree of knowledge should be as free to the farmer's son in Worcester County as to the merchant's son in Boston.

Governor Dummer left by will his homestead estate in Newbury in trust for a school, and Samuel Moody had been fitting boys for college there since 1763. Difficulties had been encountered in its operation under the will of the founder, due partly to some want of appreciation of the undertaking by the testator and partly to the eccentric and wilful character of the master, and it was not incorporated until 1782.

Phillips Academy at Andover, founded under the lead of Lieutenant-Governor Samuel Phillips, was incorporated in 1780; the first in time of the incorporated academies of Massachusetts.

Thus the easterly section of the State was provided with two academies founded by noble, wealthy and beneficent men. Worcester County was not to be outstripped by Essex and Middlesex. She had men not so rich as Dummer and the Phillipses, but no whit inferior in public spirit and devotion to the cause of education.

One morning in 1755 nine young men rode out of Pomfret on horseback. Eight of them were going to enter Yale College, and the ninth was a brother of one of them, who was to lead back the string of horses which had borne the young men to the gates of their Alma Mater. To a good Massachusetts lady visiting there, who asked them where they were going, one of them replied, with perhaps a little of the spirit engendered by the boundary difficulties between Connecticut and Massachusetts, "We are going to preach the gospel to the heathen in Massachusetts." A goodly company, and a goodly mission, and well did they perform it. Six of them became settled ministers in Massachusetts, two of them in Worcester County,—Joseph Sumner at Shrewsbury, and Joshua Paine at Sturbridge; both members of the first Board of Trustees of Leicester Academy. A seventh was Ebenezer Crafts, who did not become a minister, or even a lawyer, but, nevertheless, managed to do much good in his day and generation. He was of good old Pomfret stock, graduated at Yale College in 1759, married Mehitable Chandler of the famous Woodstock family, and came to Sturbridge soon after graduation, where he became the store and tavern keeper in the centre village. In those days, while the parson, superior in sanctity and education, was *facile princeps* in the community, the store and tavern keeper held no mean place. He was the business man who travelled, and made the exchanges between his vicinage and the city. Often, on the top of his wagon loaded with country produce, he disappeared on the dusty road towards Boston, and in due time returned, bringing back supplies and news, both of which were retailed to the eager villagers from behind the well-worn counter and bar. If he chanced to be of a military turn of mind, "a train-band captain eke was he," and shone in all the superior glory of epaulet, sword and plume. Several of the best

generals of the revolution were tavern keepers. Ebenezer Crafts was captain; not merely that, but captain of a cavalry company in the Revolution, and afterwards colonel of a Worcester County cavalry regiment. He built the tavern which still nestles behind the elms across Sturbridge Common as one drives in from Worcester. In 1790 he removed to Vermont, where he founded the town of Craftsbury; there he lived twenty years, patriarch of the town, friend and counsellor of all who lived within it, and died full of years and honors. His portrait hangs in yonder hall, where every alumnus should gaze upon it and receive added inspiration to high resolve and noble deed. He founded a town. In that he did better than most, but he did better. He founded an academy which for scores of years held equal place with the first in the grand work of preliminary instruction. In this, Samuel Phillips was his only peer of the men of that generation. The tavern keeper of Sturbridge and the merchant prince of Andover stand together at the head of the roll, *par nobile fratrum*.

But we must not fail to notice, through the mists of a century, another commanding figure which takes its place by the side of Colonel Crafts. Jacob Davis was of the family so justly noted in the annals of Oxford. Early in life he settled on a farm given him by his father in the north-easterly part of Charlton. Tall and sinewy, of great physical strength, of handsome features and dignified address, he was honored by his townsmen with the highest offices in their gift. He also was a colonel of militia and served in the Revolutionary war. Although somewhat embarrassed in his large affairs by absence in the war and by the depreciation of the currency, he readily entered into the plans of Colonel Crafts, and co-operated with him in the purchase of the Lopez estate and in the establishment of the academy. He, too, in later life, removed to Vermont and settled in the town

of Montpelier, where he built the first house in the village, and was moderator of the first town meeting, held in his own house.

The historian of Montpelier after speaking of his great physical strength, says: "But Colonel Davis's physical powers were of small account in comparison with the other traits of the man, his enterprise, energy, judgment and far reaching sagacity; but even these were not all the good qualities of his character; no needy man ever went empty-handed from his door; he ever gave employment of some kind to those who asked for it, and so well he rewarded all his employees that no reasonable man in the whole settlement was ever heard to complain of the wages he paid, or of any unfair conduct in his dealings."

Ebenezer Davis, grandfather of the late Governor Emory Washburn, was brother of Jacob. He took care of the property which Jacob left behind in Massachusetts. There are sundry charges in his voluminous account-book against Jacob, growing out of the attendance of his sons Jacob and Thomas at the academy their father had helped to found. Among other items, March 18, 1786, he charged,

"To half a day at the Academy
to settle with Trask for y^e
boys' board and to see about
future board."

He died in 1816, leaving an estate inventoried at \$100,000. "Y^e boys" in due time followed their father to Vermont, where they became prominent citizens.

July 4th, 1783, Ebenezer Crafts drafted a petition to the Legislature setting forth the purchase of the Lopez estate, "with intent and design to promote the public benefit in the education of youth," and praying for an act of incorporation "for the purpose above mentioned, with such privileges and advantages as are granted to

the Academy at Andover. Whereby the same may be made respectable, whereby the advantage of the education of youth may be promoted, whereby advantages may arise not only to individuals but to the public in général, and prove a blessing to our land of liberty."

These were brave words, sounding like a trumpet in this County of Worcester, on the first fourth of July after the great prize was fully won, proving that the men who had won were worthy to keep and enjoy. Many hearts were glad on that day. Many eloquent words were spoken. Many thanksgivings went up to almighty God who had given them the victory; but none kept it to better purpose than Ebenezer Crafts of Sturbridge.

Hon. Seth Washburn presented this petition to the Senate, of which he was a member, February 7th, 1784. The committee to whom it was referred, although friendly to it, declined to report favorably until £1000 had been subscribed as a fund for the academy. March 15th, 1784, the town of Leicester voted to subscribe £500; citizens of the town added £367; and other persons, of whom Judge Gill of Princeton was the largest subscriber, made up the amount to £1355.

March 23d, 1784, the act of incorporation was passed. The charter of Leicester Academy bears the bold signature of John Hancock, Governor, and the less conspicuous but no less firm signature of a greater than John Hancock, Samuel Adams, President of the Senate.

April 7th, 1784, there was a notable gathering on Leicester Hill. It was the first meeting of the Trustees of Leicester Academy. At the head of the Board sat Hon. Moses Gill, who had driven over to attend the meeting from his elegant seat in Princeton, described in 1792, by Whitney, as "not paralleled by any in the New England states, perhaps not by any on this side the Delaware." Near him was Colonel Crafts, the founder. Jacob Davis was absent. The elder Lincoln, at the head

of the Worcester County Bar, afterwards to be Attorney-General of the United States, was there from Worcester. Seth Washburn and Joseph Allen were there representing Leicester, although Mr. Allen had removed to Worcester. Samuel Baker of Boston, member of the Senate and chairman of the committee which reported the charter, was there. And another quietly took seat with them, whose place in history is higher than that of any of his associates on that day,—General Rufus Putnam of Rutland. He was born in Sutton in 1738, and before the Revolution was farmer, mill-wright, land surveyor, and soldier in the French and Indian wars. Of course he was at the siege of Boston. There the land surveyor became an engineer and superintended the laying out of the American works. Washington found him out and adopted him into his counsels and confidence. He wrote to Congress of him as “our Chief Engineer.” He served with distinction during the war, winning the rank of Brigadier-General. After the war he came into possession of the confiscated estate of the Tory, John Murray, in Rutland. He gave £100 to the Academy. In 1786 he formed the “Ohio Company of Associates” for the settlement of the territory north-west of the Ohio river. He and Dr. Manasseh Cutler of Hamilton were largely instrumental in procuring the enactment of the famous ordinance of 1787, without which they were unwilling to proceed to settle the territory. He led the first colony to the great free territory and settled at Marietta in April, 1788, where he lived in honor and usefulness until 1824. In 1797 he was one of the founders of Muskingum Academy, “the first established in the north-west,” and modelled after our own. With these laymen were Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester, Rev. Benjamin Conklin of Leicester, Rev. Joseph Pope of Spencer, Rev. Archibald Campbell of Charlton, Rev. Joseph Sumner of Shrewsbury, and Rev. Joshua Paine of Sturbridge, two

of the classmates of Colonel Crafts, and of the missionary band who rode out from Pomfret on that morning in 1755. Worcester County was thus represented at the dedication of Leicester Academy by her most revered divines, her most distinguished soldiers, and most eminent jurists. "In a public and religious manner," reads the record, "they acknowledged the superintending providence of God, and sought his influence and gracious direction in their present meeting and his future smiles upon the Academy."

Thus did Worcester County, a hundred years ago, lay the corner-stone of the first academy established within her borders.

But ah! the sorry days that fell in those early years. The old house had served its providential purpose. No one longer thought it elegant or commodious. The wintry winds pierced its feeble joints, and the summer rains poured through its loosened shingles; the scholars were few; the securities in which the funds were invested depreciated into worthlessness; the principal was excused from service as there was nothing from which to pay his salary; the town of Leicester assumed that of the other teacher, and with feeble hand but unshrinking purpose kept the school alive, until the general revival of confidence and business, upon the adoption of the Federal Constitution, brought to it as to everything else new strength and courage.

In 1793 the State granted the Academy a township of land in Maine, from which it realized in 1798-9 about nine thousand dollars.

In 1785 the Board of Trustees petitioned the Legislature for an act "granting a Lottery for the repairing Leicester Academy and making additional buildings thereto." The act was passed June 13th, 1785. It set forth the advantages to be anticipated; provided heavy penalties for counterfeiting the tickets; named the

managers and fixed their bonds. This Lottery was advertised in the *Columbian Centinel* for September 30th, October 3d, and October 7th, 1789, as follows :

“LEICESTER ACADEMY LOTTERY.

Which will positively be drawn on the Eighth of October next.

The *First Class* of a Lottery for repairing Leicester Academy, and making additional buildings thereon, consisting of *Four Thousand* Tickets, at Two Dollars each ; the scheme of which is as follows :

Prizes.		Dollars.		Dollars.
1	of	500	is	500
1	“	250	“	250
3	“	100	are	300
6	“	50	“	300
15	“	25	“	375
20	“	10	“	200
40	“	8	“	320
1188	“	4	“	4752

1274 Prizes.

2726 Blanks.

4000 Tickets.

Paid on Prizes 6997

For the Academy 1003

Amount 8000

As the Academy at Leicester is established for promoting piety and virtue, and for the Education of Youths in such of the liberal arts and sciences as may qualify them to be useful to Society ; and as this Lottery has for its object the accomplishment of these benevolent purposes, the managers have no doubt of a speedy sale of the Tickets.

A List of Prizes will be published in *Thomas's Massachusetts Spy*, and in the *Independent Chronicle* published by *Adams and Munroe*, and will be paid without any deduction, provided they are demanded within six months after the drawing of the said Lottery—otherwise they will be appropriated for the benefit of the Academy.

~~Box~~ Tickets may be had of the Managers—of Mr. Isaiah Thomas in Worcester—of Messrs. Adams and Nourse, of Mr. John Cunningham, and Mr. Daniel Hatch in Boston, and at various other places.

JOSEPH ALLEN,	}	<i>Managers.</i>
THOMAS NEWHALL,		
THOMAS DENNY,		

Leicester, Sept. 26, 1789.”

In the *Centinel* of October 21, 1789, the following notice appeared :

“The Managers of Leicester Academy Lottery, from the great encouragement they had received, ventured some time since to assign

a particular day for its drawing. Various unfavorable circumstances have since occurred, by reason of which so large a number of Tickets were returned unsold, as to render it highly important in them not to proceed at present.

It is with regret, therefore, that they feel themselves constrained to request such as have become adventurers, to apply to those persons of whom they have purchased tickets, for re-payment of their money. Should a more favorable opportunity present, the well wishers to the Academy may expect that the Managers will re-assume the business of the Lottery.

Oct. 20, 1789."

January 4th, 1791, the Trustees voted "to choose a committee to prepare and prefer a petition to the General Court, for a longer term to be indulged the Managers of the Leicester Academy Lottery to complete the sum of £600 already granted, and to request the liberty of raising by Lottery a further sum of £600 for the benefit of the Academy on account of the debts and embarrassments with which the Trustees are involved by reason of the depreciation of their fund."

Hon. Moses Gill, Rev. Benjamin Conklin and Hon. Joseph Baker were appointed the committee. Of course the Legislature could not resist the petition so supported, and the supplementary act was granted. The only subsequent reference to the subject in the records is a vote of the Board of Trustees, October, 1795, as follows: "Voted—that the treasurer be directed immediately to call on the Managers of the Lottery granted for the benefit of the Academy, to make a settlement of their accounts and payment of the proceeds of the Lottery into the hands of the treasurer, and to inform the Managers that it is the expectation of the Trustees of the Academy that the interest of the money from and after the first day of April last be paid. And the treasurer is further directed in case the said Managers shall neglect to make settlement and payment to institute and prosecute a suit at law for the recovery of the monies due from them."

The worthy managers seem to have taken the hint, and about \$1400 found its way into the treasury as the proceeds of the lottery.

December 23d, 1795, the Trustees of Brown University petitioned the Legislature of their State, Rev. Dr. Hitchcock at the head of the signers, for authority to raise by lottery \$25,000 for their college. In 1797 a good citizen of Sturbridge drew \$5,000 in a lottery for the benefit of Harvard College, which he invested wisely and, with good thrift and economy, laid the foundation of a good country fortune which descended in his family for more than one generation.

In 1821 the new Constitution of the State of New York prohibited the granting of further lotteries, but continued in force those already granted, provided the beneficiaries would assume their management and relieve the State from all farther responsibility on their account. Dr. Eliphalet Nott acted as representative of the beneficiaries and appointed two honorable politicians agents, who enjoyed for several years a monopoly of the lottery business in New York, which they managed so well that they realized several hundred thousand dollars for their principals, and immense fortunes for themselves and their sub-contractors. On the whole I am inclined to think that the world is not growing worse as the centuries pass away.

Twenty years had gone since the first meeting of the Board of Trustees; the price of board in commons had been raised from five shillings sixpence to seven shillings a week, including room-rent in the Academy. Eight students were assigned to each of three of the chambers and six to each of the other four, recognizing a total storage capacity of forty-eight. So late as 1793 the Principal and Associate Preceptor slept in the same bed in a little chamber over the Latin school-room. And if a college friend chanced to visit them they found room

enough for a third. But the Principal, Ebenezer Adams, had worked his salary up to \$500 a year, and Mr. Pierce, afterwards Dr. John Pierce of Brookline, his associate, received \$250. And they walked the common and streets in conscious pride, "with cocked hats and silver knee buckles, and their hair queued with ribbons, hanging half way down their backs."¹ All this was eighty years ago.

Let us pay deserved tribute to Ebenezer Adams, Principal of Leicester Academy from 1792 to 1806. He was born in Ipswich in 1765, and graduated at Dartmouth, 1791. He married Alice, daughter of Dr. John Frink of Rutland, in 1795, at which time his salary was increased by the sum of £20. To no other teacher does the Academy owe so much. Possessed of a strong intellect, an able and accurate instructor, he made thorough scholars. The records indicate that he was a good business man and that his judgment was influential in directing the financial affairs of the Academy as well as its methods of instruction. He was a Justice of the Peace and postmaster of the town.

July 17th, 1806, he resigned his "office as Preceptor of Leicester Academy," in a touching and beautiful communication spread at length upon the records. It was accepted by the Trustees with regret, and expressions of sincere respect and affection. He was subsequently Professor of Languages and then of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Dartmouth College, in all for twenty-three years. He was a member of the New Hampshire Historical Society, American Antiquarian Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of many other historical and scientific associations. He was uncommonly amiable in his deportment, and won and retained the affection of those with whom he was

¹ See Appendix, note 4.

associated. Different from his temper and manners, his voice was harsh, to such a degree that the master from whom he tried to learn to sing advised him to give up the attempt, "and keep his voice to saw wood with."

The Academy and the town of Leicester lost much in losing him. During his administration the Academy outlived the dangers and trials of its early years, and entered upon an assured and prosperous career.

I find, among the names of the young men who attended here under him, many who afterwards became eminent in this and other States; especially do I recognize many family names which have been honorably maintained in the towns of the County from its earliest history to the present time.

In 1802 four young men came here from Sturbridge to fit for college. Their names were William L. Marcy, Jacob Corey, Josiah J. Fiske, and Benjamin Rice. One of these, wishing to economize even from the seven shillings a week for commons' board, drove before him a cow from his father's farm, whose milk, with brown bread from his mother's oven, constituted his principal food while fitting for college at Leicester Academy. Marcy was a Jeffersonian boy, and on one fourth of July indulged in a speech to his fellow-students which drew upon him a reprimand from his teacher. His high spirit would not brook the indignity, and the four boys left Leicester for Woodstock Academy, then just established. Thence in due time they entered Brown University, where they all graduated in 1808. Their commencement parts were as follows:

A Syllogistic Dispute. — Is the philosophy of mind preferable to the philosophy of matter?

Benjamin Rice, Aff.

Josiah J. Fiske, Neg.

A Dispute. — Is a delicate sensibility desirable?

Jacob Corey, Aff.

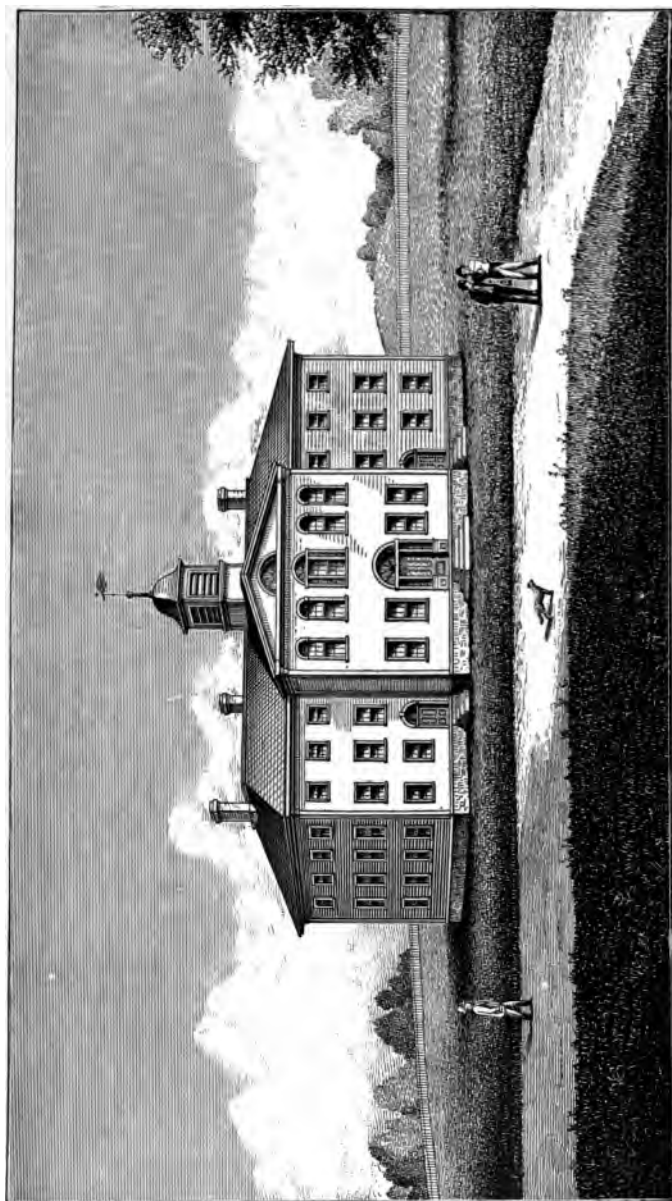
Wm. L. Marcy, Neg.

In these days of diluted and temperate politics we may well criticise and regret the partisan heat which repelled from Leicester Academy, in 1802, probably the ablest and most distinguished public man this County has yet produced.¹

Among my early recollections are many reminiscences of Marcy. In him the boy gave promise of the man. He had a great frame, a great brain, and a great heart. Strong, outspoken, generous, he was the idol of his classmates. Rather indolent, he did not take a high rank as a scholar, although it cost him no effort to learn. But as a speaker and writer he was unequalled. Although well supplied with means, many dollars found their way into his pockets for themes dashed off in hot haste, on all manner of subjects and in all styles of composition, to meet the pressing wants of his less gifted classmates. The strong, frank, wilful boy of Sturbridge won his way in the world. Judge, governor, senator, secretary of state,—he left a name among the first statesmen of the republic. Perhaps it was owing to his contempt for “a delicate sensibility” that he was the first to formulate that much-criticised political maxim, “to the victors belong the spoils.” Had he lived long enough, the same practical insensibility might have led him into that school of scientists, who find that “the survival of the fittest” is an inexorable law of creation and growth.

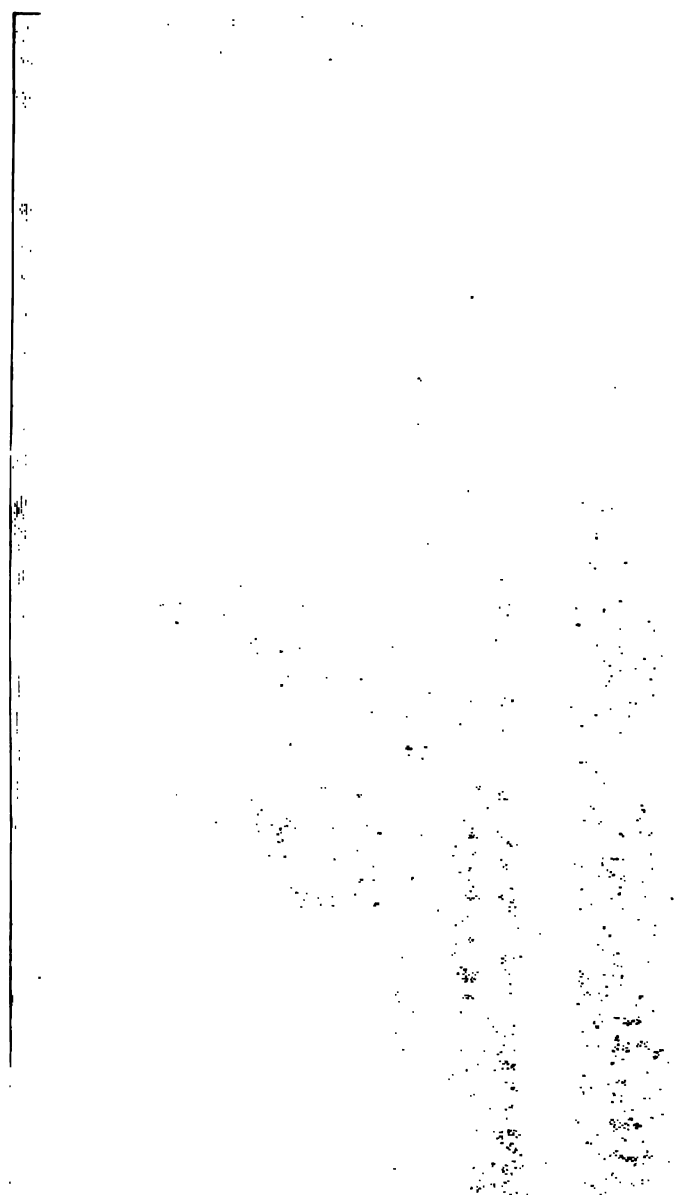
With State aid and lottery proceeds, 1804 found the treasury of the Academy with \$16,000 on the better side of the ledger. The Trustees voted to erect a new Academy building at an expense not exceeding \$7,000. The half-acre of land next east of the Lopez estate was bought of William Dall at this time, and something more than an acre was obtained partly by sale and partly by

¹ See Appendix, note 5.



SECOND ACADEMY BUILDING, 1806—1832.

[illegible]



gift from Dr. Austin Flint, in the rear of that already owned by the Academy. On this land, from Dr. Flint, the present Academy building is located. The cornerstone of the new building was laid with imposing ceremonies May 14th, 1805. In July, 1806, the old academy was sold to Thomas Denny, Esq. for \$202. And on the fourth day of the month the new Academy was dedicated. Of the first Trustees, who had gathered here twenty-two years before at the dedication of the original Academy, but three remained. One of these, the revered Dr. Sumner of Shrewsbury, was President of the Board. He held this office sixteen years. His faithfulness to all duties, his excellent judgment, his sincere piety, and broad charity, made him eminently fitted for the place. He was a man of benign countenance and noble presence. Considerably more than six feet in stature, he was well proportioned and straight as a forest tree. Surmounted by a flowing white wig, his figure at the head of the annual procession could not fail to impress all beholders with a proper sense of the dignity of Leicester Academy. I trust I may not be thought to violate any rule of propriety if I repeat the tradition of the little girl of Leicester who saw him ride into town on one of the exhibition days and ran to her mother saying, "Mother, I have just seen God ride by on horseback." This was the noble man who on the fourth of July, 1806, lifted up his hands before the new edifice and invoked the blessing of God upon it. In his address he briefly reviewed the early struggles of the Academy down to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. "Since which time" he said, "it has prospered and many have been trained up to take active and useful parts upon the stage of life; many have been furnished to be wise instructors of private schools, others have been prepared to enter upon professional studies, and not a few have been fitted to become members of colleges and universities." After

fervent and eloquent aspirations for the future success of the Academy, the good man closed, "Let us now go to the house of the Lord, and there offer our praise and thanks for the smiles of Heaven upon this institution and the success that has attended the erecting of this building, and at the same time by prayer and supplication commend this seminary to the divine benediction."

These words were something more than lip deep; they came from the heart, prompted by faith, the grand old faith, mighty to remove mountains if they stood in the way of the upbuilding of the Lord's kingdom.

The charter of Leicester Academy provides that a majority of its Trustees shall be laymen. It was the wish of the founders that no spirit of sectarianism should ever enter into its counsels. On this occasion, standing together in the pulpit of the Orthodox church, Dr. Sumner of Shrewsbury offered the dedicatory prayer, and Dr. Bancroft, the Unitarian clergyman of Worcester, delivered the address on "The importance of education."

But all the prayers of good Dr. Sumner and the wise words of Dr. Bancroft could not make tight and strong the poorly-constructed and shabbily-built edifice which they dedicated. For twenty-seven years the teachers and scholars of Leicester Academy were doomed to suffer from the inclemency of Leicester weather, equally as in the old Lopez mansion, with the added danger of an actual tumbling down over their heads.

Although these were somewhat uneventful years, yet the Academy on the whole rather more than held its own. The strong, good men of the County were still found on the Board of Trustees. Hon. Benjamin Heywood, Hon. Samuel M. Burnside, Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr., and Hon. Daniel Waldo of Worcester, Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr., of Uxbridge, General Salem Towne of Charlton, and Hon. Aaron Tufts of Dudley, and Dr. John Nelson of Leicester, Dr. Nathaniel Thayer of Lancaster, and

Rev. Josiah Clark of Rutland, kept up the high standard of the first generation.

The preceptors were able and excellent men, but as I read their names and terms of service I am again constrained to lament that Ebenezer Adams was permitted to leave the position he might have continued to fill with so much honor to himself and usefulness to the community.

I find, however, during this period the name of John Richardson, who served as Principal fourteen years and six months, by a few months the longest term during which any one has filled that position. I cannot ascertain exactly why he left. The number of scholars had decreased somewhat during his last years. His health was rather poor. The new building was just finished. Perhaps the scholarly and sensitive man detected signs that a new Principal would be acceptable in the new Academy. The Trustees accepted his resignation with a resolution of respect, and ordered his letter on file, instead of spreading it on the record as in the case of Mr. Adams. I have strong testimony that the pupils of Mr. Richardson regarded him with great respect and affection. Some of them after a lapse of more than fifty years still remember quite tenderly the charming and sprightly Mrs. Richardson. Mr. Richardson was an exact and thorough scholar, excellent in the classics, and good in mathematics also. Men now beginning to be somewhat in years recall the days when they were students in Leicester Academy under "Old Jack." One of them speaks of him as "tall, straight, dark-complexioned and very near-sighted; a good scholar and an excellent disciplinarian, somewhat severe but always just, having the respect of the school and of the public outside of the school." I am inclined to think that for dignity of character, broad and accurate scholarship, and unselfish devotion to his duties, John Richardson has had no

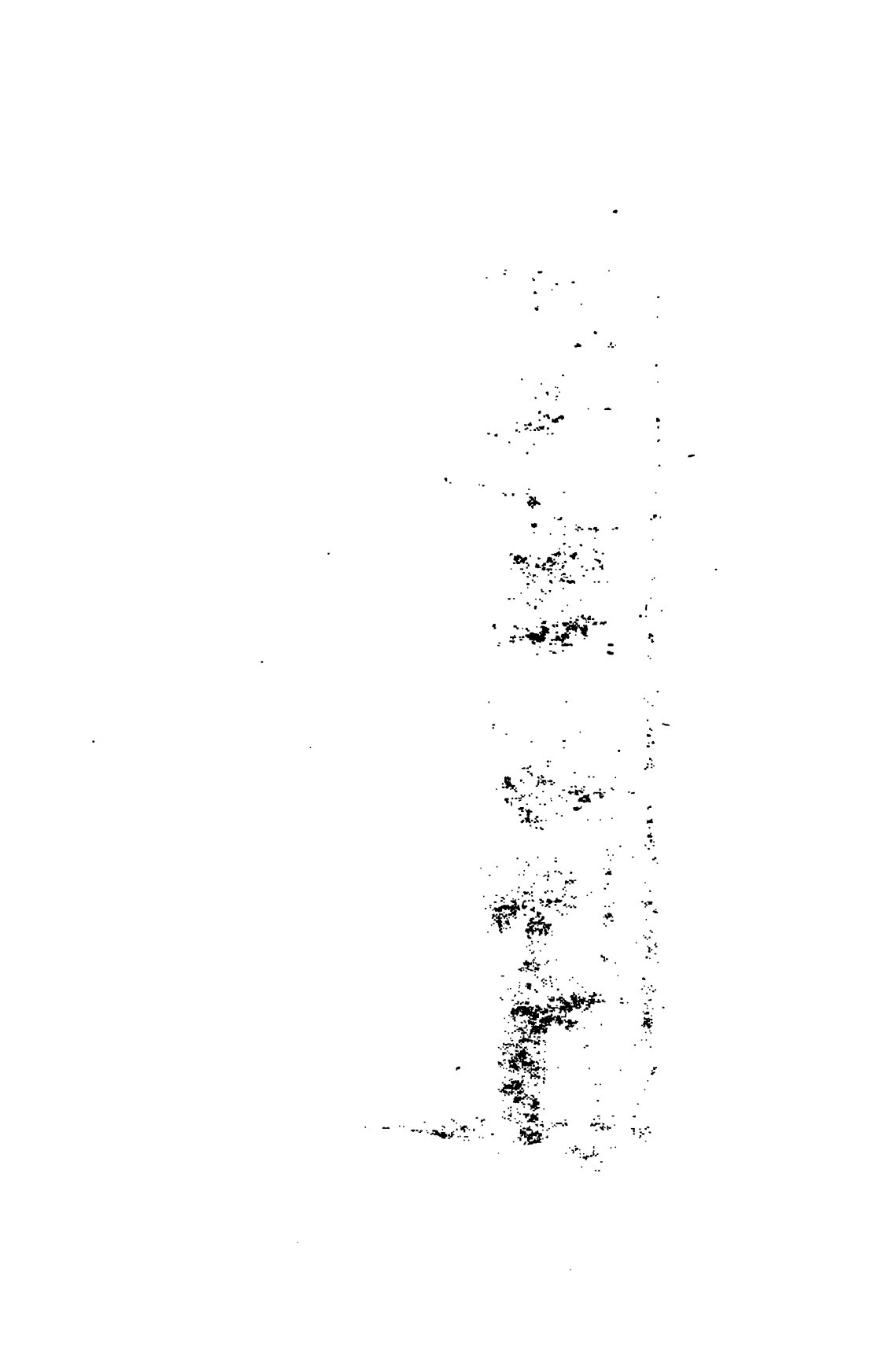
superior among the preceptors of this Academy. His health was slender and he died in his native town, Andover, a few years after leaving Leicester. Mr. Richardson had a class of six at one time fitting for Harvard College. I do not wonder that one of the old boys of those times writes, "Leicester Academy was then a great institution, with students from all parts of the country. Aaron Bancroft was President of the Board of Trustees, and would shake more wise words out of his reverend and refined head than we get in these days; and Governor Lincoln, with his tall and erect figure and high white neckcloth, was fluent of speech at every quarterly examination day; and Rev. Mr. Clark of Rutland, and Mr. Clarke, of Princeton, and Mr. Bardwell of Oxford, to say nothing of that ripe scholar, Mr. Burnside, nor of Mr. Abijah Bigelow, added distinction to the Board." Ah! *laudator temporis acti!* who knows what the boys of to-day will say of us fifty years hence! They cannot tell of a class of six fitting for Harvard. They cannot speak so proudly of governors, divines and honorables coming to the examination of Leicester Academy, but I trust they will not have to say of our Preceptor, as they do of good gentle Mr. Richardson, that "he sometimes resorted to flogging," and that once in a physical contest with a rough burly boy he had the worst of it, and "the boy got the old man down." The world does move. And I trust that no brute contests between teacher and pupil will hereafter be reported from this Academy. It might be very well then, but in these better days when it comes to that, it is time for one or the other of the belligerents to leave the school.

Excepting Ebenezer Adams and John Richardson, no person has yet occupied the position of Principal of Leicester Academy more than six years. Notwithstanding their excellent records, I am constrained to say that our Academy has yet to add the name of its great master

to that roll upon which shine with benignant lustre the names of Ezekiel Cheever, who died in 1708 at the head of the Boston Latin School after nearly seventy years of noble service as a teacher; of the eccentric but gifted Samuel Moody, who for twenty years ruled Dummer Academy according to his own sweet will and pleasure; of Benjamin Abbott and Gideon Soule, the two making out a term of eighty-four years at the head of Exeter; and of Samuel Taylor of Andover, who in twenty-eight years fitted more than one thousand young men for college.

In 1824 the Academy received a legacy of about \$9,000 from Captain Israel Waters of Charlton. His will, dated but a short time before his death, was contested by some of his relatives on the ground that he was of feeble mind at the time of its execution, and was unduly influenced, especially by Hon. N. P. Denny, a Trustee of the Academy and one of the executors named in the will. These objections were speedily overcome, and the will was finally probated, after appeal to the Supreme Court, within three months of its execution by the testator, a good example of despatch for these later days. I trust none of Captain Waters's relatives suffered for want of their share of his property. It has been of great advantage to the Academy. This legacy is the only gift to the Academy to which has been attached any restriction of a sectarian character. It was made "with the following restrictions and limitations, to wit: It is to be denominated the Waters Fund for the purpose of supporting an instructor or instructors of the Congregational Calvinistic order, in the higher branches of literature, at the discretion of said Trustees, in the town of Leicester forever, and at said Academy so long as it shall remain in said town."

In 1831 Hon. Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, who had been a life-long friend and patron of the institution, left



delphia, formerly of Leicester, gave it \$10,000, to which at his death in 1876 he added \$15,000, making him by far the largest donor to the institution. As a consequence of Mr. Smith's first donation, the interior of the Academy was remodelled and the present pleasant and commodious hall constructed. Again there were dedicatory exercises. Alvan H. Washburn, Principal, delivered the address, and the good old subject, "Education," was again discussed to the edification of all present.¹

In 1867 the old meeting-house, replaced by the one in which we are now assembled, was purchased by the Trustees and moved to the rear of the Academy, with which it is connected; the first story fitted up for a gymnasium, and the upper for pleasant and healthy dormitories.

In 1861 military drill and discipline were introduced into the school, and in 1863 a State commission, of which Hon. Edward Everett was chairman, visited the school. After witnessing the drill and evolutions of the cadets the eloquent chairman addressed the scholars and the friends of the Academy in the hall, it is needless to add from the records "in a very interesting manner."

In our system of education the academy stands next the college. It should be equipped with teachers and all appliances necessary and sufficient to fit youth adequately and thoroughly for any college or university in the country. To do this properly requires great administrative ability, a broad, judicious character, and high talent for teaching. Those who fit the boy for college have more to do with discovering, or framing and directing, his tastes and habits and methods of thought and life than those to whom he is intrusted within the higher and broader halls of the college. Nor is anything less than

¹ See Appendix, note 7.

broad and accurate scholarship necessary for the task. The boy who enters Harvard to-day from Exeter or Andover knows more Greek, Latin, and mathematics than his grandfather did when he graduated. I am not sure that I might not bring the comparison one generation nearer.¹

The boys and girls of this section of our State have a right to claim instruction of such scope and character from some source. Where shall they find it? The high schools, except of the larger cities, cannot afford it. Towns of more than four thousand inhabitants are, indeed, required to employ teachers fitted to instruct in the studies preparatory for college, but the circumstances of these schools are such, without any fault on the part of any connected with them, as to make it probable that a youth entering college from one of them would be mortified and handicapped during his whole college course.

What I have said referring to classical and college studies may be said with equal and perhaps greater appropriateness respecting the technical and scientific. I do not advocate displacing the ancient languages from the academy and college curriculum, but I must admit that they play but a small part in the practical education which these great times demand. It is pleasant to muse on the banks of the Scamander and the Simois,—in Academian groves or Tusculum villas; the influences coming thence tend to grace, refinement, and somewhat to mental discipline. But the world is thousands of years older than it was when Homer sang, or Socrates discoursed, or Cicero wrote; the areas of knowledge and thought are infinitely vaster. Those equipped only, or chiefly, from the knowledge obtained from ancient literature are as powerless, when involved in the tremendous

¹ See Appendix, note 8.

activities of this generation, as would be the Grecian phalanx or the Roman legion attacked by the terrible agencies of modern warfare. The academy should be prepared to furnish instruction in the technical and natural sciences, sufficiently at least to open the eyes of its students to their infinite variety, extent and usefulness. This, again, the ordinary high school cannot be expected to do. I maintain, therefore, that there is an ample and important place for the academy between the public schools of the towns and the college.

In 1797 Hon. Nathan Dane reported to the Massachusetts Legislature in favor of extending state aid to academies representing constituencies of from thirty to forty thousand population, and in 1859 Hon. Charles W. Upham in a report to the Senate endorsed the views of Mr. Dane.

When Leicester Academy was established the population of Worcester County was 50,000. It is now five times that number. There are at least 50,000 inhabitants in the towns west of Worcester, whose youth would be accommodated at Leicester better than elsewhere. In addition to these, many from Worcester and other towns in the County might be attracted here by various considerations, and also the children of those associated with Leicester in their youth, who, as age creeps on, feel the cords of early memories and affections tightening round their hearts.

I have had a table prepared of the number and residence of the pupils of the Academy in the fall term of each tenth year since its establishment. This affords, not an exact, but an approximate basis for a judgment as to what towns heretofore have been accommodated by Leicester Academy. Of the fifty-eight towns in the County, seventeen have had no scholars here during any one of these ten fall terms. Of the other towns, those which have furnished the largest number stand in the

following order : Leicester, Worcester, Spencer, Paxton, Brookfield, Grafton, Oxford, New Braintree, Rutland, Shrewsbury and Sutton. Leicester Academy has a constituency large enough to justify expectation of continued prosperity and usefulness. She must prove herself worthy of her opportunity and equal to her duty.

1st. The Trustees must attend to their duties faithfully and in earnest. Ours is no perfunctory task. We are in great places. If we fail to strive, at least, to fill them, a graver responsibility will fall upon us than most men wish to bear.

2d. The teachers must be able and willing to lift up the standard of instruction on this height that it may be seen again throughout the State. It is not enough that they do as well as others. They must do as well as, and strive to do better than, the best. Let them labor as in anticipation of filling out such terms of service as the eminent examples to which I have referred. There have been many great divines, great lawyers, great statesmen, but comparatively few great teachers. All the more honor to add new stars to the small but brilliant galaxy.

3d. The men and women of these towns must feel the importance to them of this Academy. They can send their sons and daughters here secure of the best moral and physical surroundings, and gain for them the advantages of an education away from home, and yet so near as to be substantially under the guardianship of parental care and love. But a word in your ears, my friends : Leicester Academy needs a little more money. Her treasury is not empty. It has as much money in it as ever, perhaps a little more, but the demands keep pace with the times. I ask no large endowment : economy is better than luxury for the development of muscle, but about \$50,000 addition to the funds would, it seems to me, just about make sure the accomplishment of what we desire. I would not have any one gentleman

give that entire sum, if there are ten who are willing to share it among them. I am very serious in calling the attention of gentlemen of means to this point. To some God has denied the rich gift of children. Give to Leicester Academy what it would cost to educate a son or daughter, and thus purchase an interest in the future which otherwise you may not have.

The progressive and patriotic spirit of the men who founded Leicester Academy has always inspired its management and made itself manifest in its internal life and character. It has been open to girls from the beginning. In this respect it differs from its contemporaries, which were for boys only. Worcester County has always taken the lead in reform movements, and the experience of its oldest academy proves the advantages of schools for both sexes upon equal terms. The best scholars when I was a teacher here were girls. I am glad that Harvard College is making an effort, rather late in the day to be sure, to follow the example of Leicester Academy in this respect. There is every reason why other educational institutions should do the same. It will be found safe, profitable and very agreeable to the pupils.

Temperance societies were early established among the students, which held regular meetings with addresses, singing and prayers. It is said and may well be believed that these societies exerted a most healthy influence upon the youth of the Academy.

I find traces also of a "Society of Enquiry," whose attention was chiefly directed to the subject of Foreign Missions, which continued in existence for several years, and did much towards exciting and promoting a missionary spirit.

For several years, beginning as early certainly as 1835, there was an Anti-Slavery Society connected with the Academy, composed solely of its students of both

sexes, which was accustomed to meet regularly for discussions and to hold quarterly meetings in one of the large recitation rooms, to which *all* students were invited, when an address was delivered, and hymns and odes were sung from an anti-slavery song-book prepared by Maria W. Chapman and other anti-slavery workers. This Society took several newspapers, among which were the "Liberator," Mrs. Child's "Anti-Slavery Standard," and Rogers's "Herald of Freedom." I think it may be affirmed that the students of Leicester Academy enjoyed a freedom of thought and discussion on this vital subject, which at the time would have been denied them at Andover, or any other similar institution.

It would be well for our youth of the present day to study these examples of their predecessors, and inquire if grave responsibilities do not devolve upon them, not only in improving their own intellectual and moral qualities, but in keeping up the high reputation of the academy for free thought and earnest action in every good cause and work.

I came to Leicester thirty-seven years ago as assistant-preceptor. Only two survive whose connection with the Academy as teachers antedates my own. Both are here to-day. A week ago to-day we attended the funeral of the last survivor of the Trustees then in office, Hon. Stephen Salisbury. He fitted for college here and graduated at Harvard in 1817. He was a wise counsellor and liberal benefactor of the Academy, and its Trustees requested those of their number residing in Worcester to attend his funeral in respect to his memory.

I was fully twenty-one when I came here and well understood that I was advanced in years and a thorough expert in the art of teaching. I did know, however, that my forte was not in mathematics, which were specially assigned to me. And I will here confess that Mr. Smith,

a good scholar in these as in all other studies and very good natured, used to help me through with the hardest problems. We had annual exhibitions then after the old style. I am not quite sure that the Academy will ever be what it was until they are restored. These exhibitions date back almost to the beginning of the Academy. In 1795 they were made the subject of grave consideration in the Board of Trustees. In 1796 the Building Committee was directed "to provide a stage on which the scholars may appear on days of public exhibition." But the exhibitions were before this. I have before me extracts from the diary of a bright young lady of Leicester, describing the exhibitions of 1792, 1793, 1794, 1796. I would be glad to read them to you in full.¹ The young ladies took part in them. In this respect it was better than in my day, and I am glad that the old practice has been revived in the smaller exhibitions which are now given.

In those old years a ball was always given exhibition evening, and the young lady descants upon these with evident delight, telling the number of couples present, the names of her partners and the time of breaking up—only once so late as half-past one A. M., although in 1796 the dancing was resumed in the forenoon of the next day. In 1794 there were rival balls, one in Denny's and the other in Hobart's Hall. The hour of the first was three o'clock P. M., the other was at the aristocratic hour of five P. M. The invitations were on the backs of common visiting cards. Who can wonder that Leicester Academy grew and prospered in those good old days.

The exhibitions in my day were still grand affairs, although the young ladies took no part in them and somehow or other the balls had been omitted from the programme. The stage was still put up in the meeting-house, to which we marched in solemn procession, and

¹ See Appendix, note 9.

orators declaimed and poets rehearsed and bandit chiefs strutted and fumed. I see some of those boy-performers before me now, bronzed men — their once smooth faces graven with the deep lines of thought and care — drawn back to this spot by the sweet, strong spell of early associations. And I dare say that in all the intervening years they have not been more conscious of weighty affairs resting upon their shoulders than on those old exhibition days.

Josiah Clark, Principal, directed the exercises. Well do we remember his gracious presence and pleasant face. He was born in Leicester, February 7th, 1814, and graduated at Yale in 1833. He was an accomplished scholar, courteous in manner but decided in principle, with a clear head, a large heart and a beautiful spirit. I am sure that he might have been the great master, but Leicester let him go, as she did Adams and Richardson. In 1849 he became Principal of Williston Academy, thence he removed to Northampton, where he died, May 23d, 1878.¹

Joseph A. Denny was very busy on those exhibition days. If anything was going wrong he was at once on the spot to make it right. Mr. Denny was the business man of the Academy for many years. He gave to it generously of his means and more so of his time which was more valuable to it than money. Leicester Academy owes much to the Denny family, and the debt is growing larger every year. Henry A. Denny, of course, was Chief Marshal. He is here to-day in advanced and honored age, and I dare say could still handle a procession better than many a younger man. At all events he would have a pleasant smile and a hearty word for all.

Emory Washburn was always here, alert, nervous, restless, moving from place to place as he saw some old friend or client with whom he wished to exchange a word.

¹ See Appendix, note 10.

“His foot was on his native heath.” Grandson of Seth, he was born here in 1800. In 1813, fitted for Dartmouth, he spoke his piece on the stage. One, then a scholar here, has often described to me the bright handsome boy as he appeared on that occasion to her young eyes. He was then, and always after, Leicester’s pet, and will always hold in her affections the first place of all her sons.

George Allen was here, son of Joseph, with keen eye and shut lips, kind and gentle in friendship, terrible in wrath. I saw him in the old City Hall of Worcester in 1848, when with head erect and defiant port, he gave utterance to that famous apothegm, which fired Massachusetts as the Marseillaise fired France—“Massachusetts wears no chains and spurns all bribes; she goes now, and will ever go, for free soil and free men; for free lips and a free press; for a free land and a free world.”

One more I name, last because dearest, whose memory as I recall it rests like a benediction on this place made sacred by nearly sixty years of his holy ministrations—Dr. John Nelson, President of the Board of Trustees from 1834 to his death, December, 1871; tender as a woman, but manly in bearing and unflinching in duty, I name him as the most potent individual influence known in Leicester during half the century we commemorate. I may not, I cannot, speak of the dear home on the hillside, of which he was the centre and the charm. Those who were permitted to dwell within its pure and happy penetralia, the children of Leicester and the pupils of Leicester Academy for more than sixty years, wherever in the wide world their lots are cast, will remember him with love and reverence until the last of the generation that knew him has passed away.

Ring down the curtain. Vanish, scenes of departed years. Recede into memory's back-ground, dear forms from the past. Our centennial words are spoken. Reverently we thank God for what Leicester Academy has been; hopefully we invoke his blessing upon it during the new century upon whose threshold we stand.

APPENDIX TO MR. RICE'S ADDRESS.

NOTE 1.

Washburn says that Fosgate erected the first store building in Leicester. But there were other stores in Leicester before his. Colonel William Henshaw had a store at the foot of meeting-house hill as early as 1762. Tradition says that Fosgate violated the "solemn league and covenant" entered into by patriotic merchants in regard to the sale of articles rendered obnoxious by British legislation, for which he was obliged to leave the town.

NOTE 2.

Henry Bass was a notable Boston patriot. He was a cousin of Colonel William Henshaw, and both were cousins of John Adams. His home was on Rainsford's Lane, since merged into Harrison Avenue. Drake says that Samuel Adams and Major Melvill often passed there a convivial evening and ate a Sabbath dinner. He was one of the Boston tea-party. Joseph Allen served his apprenticeship with him, and they were afterwards interested together in business in Leicester, although Bass never resided in the town.

NOTE 3.

By a fortunate accident Hon. Jonathan D. Wheeler of Grafton discovered among the papers of his uncle Jonathan Wheeler, Esq. the sketch of the old mansion made by him while a scholar in the Academy, during the first year after its incorporation. It was constructed with no regard to architectural beauty and was painted yellow. When it was removed, at the time the second Academy was built, it was purchased by Thomas Denny, Esq., and two houses were

built from it, — one yet standing, on Pleasant street, now occupied by Mr. George D. Hatch, and the other removed to Worcester and set up there.

Dr. John Pierce, in his address delivered in 1847, gave the following personal reminiscences of the old mansion :

“ Vain would be the attempt to describe the Academy as it appeared to my youthful imagination. It was an oblong, barrack-looking building, erected by Jews who had migrated from Newport, R. I., during our revolutionary trouble, and raised this rough structure for mercantile uses. The western extremity was occupied by the Principal, or Latin Instructor ; the eastern, by the English Preceptor, in which he instructed pupils of both sexes. A long room between these extremes was devoted to various purposes, from a dining-hall to a place for the occasional exhibitions of the students. Back of the English Preceptor’s room was a suite of rooms for the stewards. Rooms in the second story were for the students who boarded in commons. Over the Latin school was a chamber, in which the Principal and myself occupied the same bed, for the two years we were together. Not only so, when a college friend was to pass the night with us, we all three slept together. I distinctly remember, besides several others, two — afterwards eminent men — submitting to this inconvenience. I refer to the Rev. Jesse Appleton, afterwards President of Bowdoin College, and the Rev. Samuel Worcester, afterwards Dr. Worcester of Salem, ‘ whose praise is heard in many of our churches.’ ”

NOTE 4.

“ According to the costume of the times, I then wore a cocked or three-cornered hat. My hair was queued with a ribbon, half way down my back. I had silver buckles at my knees. My plated shoe buckles covered more than half of my insteps.” — *Dr. Pierce’s Address.*

NOTE 5.

The following extract from Dr. Pierce’s Address indicates to what length party spirit ran in former times :

“ About the time of Jay’s treaty with the British nation, which had the explicit sanction of Washington, political parties became exceedingly violent. So inveterate had a newspaper, in Philadelphia, called the *Aurora*, become, that it stigmatised even Washington himself as ‘ a hoary headed incendiary.’ This

odious language was quoted by the *Independent Chronicle* in Boston. The morning after this outrage was read in said paper, the Principal, Mr. Adams, called to a boy after prayers, saying, 'boy, bring the tongs, take that paper lying on the floor, containing that viperous slander against Washington, be careful not to touch it with your hands, and thrust it into the fire.' The order was no sooner given than it was promptly obeyed. It would be difficult to conceive of a more effectual way to express his own indignation against the vile scandal thus cruelly expressed, and to excite a similar indignation in the breasts of all present."

NOTE 6.

Joseph A. Denny, Esq. had a bird-house modelled after the second academy building, from which its picture has been prepared for this pamphlet.

NOTE 7.

Rev. Alvan H. Washburn was a man of much force of character and of a practical turn. After leaving Leicester he served acceptably as a minister of the Episcopal Church, in Hyde Park, Mass., and in Cleveland, Ohio. He lost his life in the terrible railroad accident at Ashtabula, Ohio, December 29, 1876.

NOTE 8.

"When I entered Harvard University no knowledge even of common arithmetic was a pre-requisite; nor were we required to know anything of Geography, but simply the place of our nativity. It is my firm conviction, that the young ladies of this Academy now acquire more knowledge of the mathematical and kindred sciences, to say nothing of the belles-lettres, than was then attained, take them as they arise, by the graduates of our first universities."—*Dr. Pierce's Address*.

NOTE 9.

I cannot resist the temptation to avail myself of the courtesy extended me by a member of the family of this generation, and preserve these extracts from the diaries of Miss Ruth Henshaw referring to the exhibitions in the years 1792, 1793,

1794, 1796, and 1801, and of her sister Miss Katharine Henshaw, of the year 1804. Miss Ruth Henshaw was afterwards the wife of Dr. Asa Miles of Westminster, and after his decease of Rev. E. L. Bascom of Phillipston and Ashby.

DESCRIPTION OF ACADEMY EXHIBITION, JUNE 23, 1792,

By RUTH HENSHAW, a scholar.

"Exhibition at 10 A. M., attended by a great concourse of people. Procession from Academy to the meeting-house, young men first, 48 in number, ladies, 12 in number, Preceptors followed by the Corporation, the scholars opening to the right and left at the door, for the ladies. Thomas and Perry escorted them to their seats on the right hand, the gentlemen taking the left. After prayer they removed into pews reserved for them. Fine musick.

1. A Poem, by Samuel Swan.
 2. A Dialogue, by Daniel Henshaw and Seth Eddy.
 3. A Dialogue, by I. Foster, Miss Vickery, and Miss Stickney.
 4. A Dialogue between Samuel Southgate and Miss Waite.
 5. 'The Musick Master,' by Fessenden, Davis, Miss Howe and Miss Swan. Musick at intervals, viz. Bass viols, Violins, Flutes, &c.
 6. An Oration, by Perry.
 7. A Dialogue, by Whittemore and Southgate.
 8. Dialogue by Misses Chapman and Southgate.
 9. An Oration in Greek, by L. Hardin.
 10. 'The true born Irishman,' a Comedy, by Fessenden, Denny, Rich, and Miss Jennison.
 11. Pedantick Sophomore, Rice, Alpheus Richardson, and Miss Betsy Henshaw.
 12. An Oration in Latin, by Leonard Wood.
 13. 'The fine Gentleman,' Dialogue by Smith and How.
 14. Dialogue by How, Rice, and Miss Henshaw.
 15. Dialogue by How, Smith, and J. Southgate.
- Intermission till 2 o'clock; scholars escorted to the Academy.
Returned to meeting-house, as in former order.
1. A Poem, by Swan.
 2. 'Johnston and Nell,' by Harry, Polly and Betsy Stickney.
 3. 'The mock Doctor,' by Stebbins, How, Hammond and two Misses Watson.
 4. * 'The Hypocrite,' a Comedy, by John Jennison, Green, Wood, Smith, Perry, Gilbert, Rich, Miss How, Miss S. Swan, Ruth Henshaw, Suky Vickery.

* "I took the part of young Lady Lambert, in said Comedy."

5. An Oration, by Samuel Davis, concluded the entertainments of the Day, which were witnessed by a great collection of people who showed by their Countenances that they were not disappointed.

In evening, had a Ball at Hinckly Hall [probably the Academy Hall], where upwards of 30 couples assembled. Broke up before 12.

Ruth Henshaw."

EXTRACT FROM JOURNAL OF RUTH HENSHAW, 1793.

"Wednesday, June 22d, Day appointed for Annual Exhibition of Academy. At 9:30 the scholars of both sexes met at the Academy and walk'd to the meeting-house, the smallest boys first, and so on to the last. Ladies, 16 in number, in like manner; followed by the Preceptors and Corporation. Mr. Denny and Mr. Fessenden escorted the ladies to the seats at the right hand, gentlemen following taking the left hand seats. Rev. Mr. Sumner made a prayer, after which, vocal and instrumental musick for some minutes. Exhibition began with

1. An Oration, by W. B. Banister.
2. A Dialogue, by Davis and H. Southgate.
3. Dialogue, by E. Bowden and Betsy Fields.
4. Dialogue, by E. Green and Betsy Fessenden.
5. Latin Oration, by T. Denny.
6. A Poem, by P. Rawson.
7. An Oration in Greek, by J. Jennison.
8. English Oration, by ——— Church.
9. The Toy-shop, a farce, by ———, Billings, Hubbard, Green, Cole, Cutler, J. Field, Pelham, L. Wicker, C. Wheeler, H. Waite, &c.
10. Prologue to the Old Maid, by P. Rawson.
11. The Old Maid, a farce, by Church, Gould, Selfredge, P. Richards, Nabby Sparhawk, and Betsy Fields.

At intermission many favorite pieces of musick were performed by Messrs. McCarty, Wister, Hubbard, Holbrook, and others.

At 12 o'clock returned in procession to the Academy — scholars before the Academy door opening to the right and left. Ladies passed, followed by Preceptors and Corporation. I spent intermission at Doctor's with many acquaintance. At 2 o'clock, the Procession moved, as before mentioned, to the Meeting-house. Musick enlivened the occasion.

1. An Address to the Ladies by ——— Church.
2. An address, by J. Field.
3. 'Lady Racket,' by Banister, Hubbard, Cutler, Isa' Southgate, C. Wheeler, H. Waite, Betsy Fessenden.
4. 'The Citizens,' a farce, by Fessenden, Bisco, Green, R. Henshaw.
5. A Dialogue, by Gould and Cutler.

6. 'The Duke of York,' by Church, Selfredge, Whitcomb, Nabby Sparhawk.
7. 'The Contrast,' a Comedy by Denny, Rich, Banister, Fessenden, Jennison, Davis, Isabella Southgate, Nabby Sparhawk, Betsy Fields, Ruth Henshaw.

This concluded the entertainment of the day, which was honoured by a very crowded audience. Took coffee at Dr. Flint's, after which attended the Ball at the Academy (with Mr. Danforth), spending the evening in Company of upwards of 30 couples, from Shrewsbury, Ward, Hubbardston, Brookfield and elsewhere.

Returned at 10 o'clock to Dr. Flint's. We were favoured with a delightful evening; though a heavy shower at intermission, it cleared off, at 2 P. M., very pleasant."

ANNUAL EXHIBITION, MAY 21, 1794.

BY RUTH HENSHAW.

"At 10 o'clock A. M., attended Exhibition at the Academy. A very great Concourse of people in attendance. Scholars walk'd in procession from the Academy to the Meeting-house as usual. Rev. Mr. Pope of Spencer offered prayer, after which, Singing, accompanied by Violins, Hautboy, Bass Viol, Clarionet, German Flutes and French horn. The Exhibition was opened by an Oration, spoken by Henry Pelham. A number of single pieces, Dialogues, &c., followed, by Wyman, Munroe, Cutler, Misses Nabby Sparhawk, Betsy Russell, Ruth Henshaw. A piece of Musick concluded the forenoon's Exercises.

Intermission.

Returned at 2 P. M. to the Meeting-house. After Music, a number of Oration in Latin, Greek and English, Poems, Dialogues, was delivered.

1. "The Miss in her teens," by J. King, S. Southgate, H. Pelham and two Misses Waite.
2. "The provoked Husband," by J. Cutler, Gardner, Miss —— Nye, Miss Sally Gardner, and Miss Nancy Henshaw.
3. "The Spirit of Contradiction," by Bisco, Bannister, Burden, Miss P. Newhall, Miss R. Fields, and Miss N. Wales.

Vocal and instrumental Music concluded the ceremonies of the day, which were honoured by a very crowded Audience. In evening attended the Ball at Hinckly Hall [Academy building] with upwards of 60 couples: had the pleasure of seeing many old acquaintances, and of an agreeable Dance. Returned at 12 to Dr. Flint's.

May 22d. Pleasant A. M. After breakfast, went to Uncle Swan's Hall with a number of others — in all, about 15 Couples. Danced till eleven A. M. then returned to Dr. Flint's and dined — scholars returned to their homes."

FROM DIARY OF MISS RUTH HENSHAW, 1796.

"Order of Exercises at Exhibition of Academy July 7, 1796.

10 o'clock, A. M.

1. Oration by Phillip Leach.
2. Latin Oration, by Bigelow.
3. The Mountaineers — by Henry Sargent, W. White, and others.
4. Jealous Wife, by Mc. Kinster, Draper, and Miss Kelly, of Rutland.
5. Declamation by S. Southgate.
6. The Spoiled Child, by Draper, F. Nichols, Gould, N. Watson, N. Dunbar.
7. Declamation, by S. Southgate.
8. Prologue to "Widow of Malabar," by Cornelius Hunt.
9. 'The Widow of Malabar,' a Tragedy, by Wood, S. Swan, Flint, Maxy, Davis, Miss Davies, Miss Tyler, and others.
10. Epilogue, by Miss Anna Davies.

Intermission of 2 hours.

Resumed Exhibition at 2 o'clock—a very crowded Audience.

1. Declamation, by Billings Otis.
2. Dialogue, Flint and Maxy, and others. (Virgil Maxy.)
3. Declamation by P. Rawson.
4. Declamation by J. Kent.
5. Declamation, by J. Frink.
6. Dialogue, by Miss Chapin, Miss Nichols, and B. Otis.
7. Declamation, by I. Woods.
8. Greek Dialogue, by Draper, I. Munroe, and E. Whipple.
9. The Wheel of Fortune, a Comedy, by Cyrus Washburn, Whipple, Bigelow, I. Munroe, S. Southgate, J. Woods, Keyes—Miss Suky White, Miss Katy Sessions, and Tamison Burt.

In evening attended the Ball at Col. Denny's Hall; about 50 couples. 15 of them being from Braintree.

Next day, July 8th, attended another Ball, at Mr. Swan's Hotel, attended by Preceptor Dehon, Academy scholars, and others, from Westminster, Worcester, Braintree, &c."

LEICESTER ACADEMY EXHIBITION, JULY 3, 1800.

(From Ruth Henshaw's Diary.)

"At 9 A. M. attended the Exhibition. The Corporation, Preceptors, scholars and musicians, walked in Procession, as usual, from the Academy to the Meeting-house, a prayer was made by Rev. Mr. Sumner.

Introductory Oration by Seth Fowler.

Dialogue by Lucy Allen and Isa' Frink.—Greek Oration by Prince.

The Apparition, by Aspinwall, Nabby Allen, Anna Bisco, Isa' How, Polly Stone, Sophia Ellis, Sophia Sargent.

A Dialogue, by Sally Flint, Sally Read, and Polly Johnson, of Leominster.

English Oration, by Davies.

'The School-master,' by J. Read, Greenwood, Piper, and others.

'The Jealous Wife,' by Packard, Chapin, Greenwood, Brooks, and Misses C. Bancroft, A. Drury, Nichols.

Afternoon.

A Poem, by Bruce. A Poem, by Jos. Harrington.

Latin Poem, by Aspinwall.

Brutus and ———, by Hildreth and Aspinwall.

Anecdote, by Danielson.

'The Wooden Boy,' by T. Rice, Daniel Henshaw, Moses Gill, Elnathan Pratt, Sophia Sargent.

'The Country School,' by Joseph Flint.

Character of Pitt, by Tyler Maynard.

'No Song, no Supper,' a farce, by Lyon, Sloane, Read, Greenwood, Hildreth, and Misses M. Parker, O. Dearth, A. Allen.

We dined at Dr. Flint's with many acquaintances. In evening went to Exhibition Ball with Mr. ———, at Col. Denny's Hall, with upwards of 50 couples, among whom were the scholars of both sexes, 3 Misses Newhall, their brother and others, from Sturbridge. Mr. Bliss, and the Misses Bliss, from Brimfield.—Mr. Boutwell, and Mr. Johnson, from Leominster, Misses Lyon, of Holland.—Mr. Morton, Mr. Dix, and others, from Worcester. The Preceptors and their ladies, and many others from Leicester and several ladies visiting in town, from Sterling, Ipswich and other towns. We returned home at 1 o'clock."

EXAMINATION AND EXHIBITION AT LEICESTER ACADEMY, 1800.

"Thurs., Oct. 2d.—Examination in A. M. at the Meeting-house.

In the evening, Exhibition was held at Meeting-house.

The Tragedy of 'Cato' was acted by Brazier, Harrington, Hildreth, Aspinwall, Boutwell, Davies, and others—Melissa Russell and Sophia Godfrey.

'The Citizen,' a farce, by Lyon, Hildreth, Greenwood, Pratt, Hawes, Miss Forbes, etc.

Bass viols, Violins, and Flutes, furnished music for the occasion."

RUTH HENSHAW'S DIARY, 1801, LEICESTER.

"Thursday, July 9, 1801. Pleasant day; we attended the Exhibition at 10 A. M.—had but one exercise. Rev. Mr. Ward of Brookfield offered Prayer. Music as usual.

Introductory Oration by Thomas Aspinwall.

Dialogue, by Caroline Reed and Maria Merrick.

Dialogue, by Miss ——— and Miss L. Russell.
 Greek Oration, by ———.
 English Oration, by Amadee Perry, of St. Domingo.
 'Lovers' Vows,' by Bemis, Day, Dean, Davies, ———, ——— and
 Lucretia Stone.
 Dialogue by Bemis, Nickerson, Perry, and Sally White.
 Blustering Oration, by Mr. Harding.
 Latin Dialogue.
 'La Parue,' by Hildreth [Hosea Hildreth, probably,] Hastings,
 Whitlock, Charlotte Watson, and Clarissa Russell.
 A Fable, by ———.
 Dialogue, by Lyon, Greenwood, Plympton, Fanny White, Dolly
 Poor, etc.
 Valedictory oration or address, by Samuel Brazier.

At 4 o'clock, attended Academy Ball (at Col. Denny's hall) with A.
 Perry, cousin William Bass of Boston in company with us; upwards of
 120 ladies and gents made their appearance and danced till past 12, and
 then retired; probably,

Some pleased, some disgusted, Some with rigging ill-adjusted,
 Some merry, some sad — Some sorry, some glad,
 Some elated, others tired; Some neglected, more, admired!
 Some jovial, some pouting, Some silent, others shouting!
 Some are calm, others crazy, Some sprightly, others lazy.
 Some resolved to keep awake, Some resolved their sleep to take.
 I am one of the lazy crew, Sense and nonsense, both adieu."

FROM RUTH HENSHAW'S DIARY, 1804.

"Thurs. Aug. 13, 1804, cool and calm. At eleven A. M. attended the
 Annual Exhibition, with father and brother Daniel, at the Meeting-
 house. Rev. Mr. Bancroft made the prayer. After the procession,
 preceded by the Band of Musick, had taken their places, the first
 exercise was Musick, next, an address by Gardner, on the Importance of
 a religious education, religious Rules, &c., &c. Next, a Latin Oration,
 by ———.

'Charles Chatterbox,' by little White.
 'The Purse,' Declamation, by Danielson 2nd.
 Greek Oration, by Selfridge.
 Dialogue by Edward Flint and ——— Kingsbury.
 'The Country School,' by E. Danielson.
 'The Suicide,' by Hopkins, Bacon, and Washburn.
 'The Foundling,' by Geo. Davis, Bemis, Danielson, Bush, Howard
 2d.
 Declamation in English, by G. Davis.

'Description of a "mighty good sort of a man,"' by Howard, and Do. 'mighty good sort of a woman,' by Jos. Wilson, of New Braintree. 'Death,' a Poem, by Hopkins.

Academy Ball was attended at Hobart's hall, by brother Daniel and sister Lucinda, who reached home (3 miles) at 1 1-2 A. M."

EXTRACT FROM KATHARINE HENSHAW'S JOURNAL, LEICESTER, 1804.

"Thurs. Aug. 23.—Very pleasant and cool; attended the Annual Exhibition in company with many family-friends and visitors from out of town. Corporation and scholars of both sexes walked in procession from Mr. Stone's (steward) to the meeting-house. Rev. Jos. Sumner of Shrewsbury made the prayer. Introductory Address by Timothy Danielson. Farewell Address by S. Bacon, being his own composition. Original farewell Ode sung by a member of Academy composed by Harrington of Southborough. A. Holbrook composed the Musick.

Musicians for the occasion, W. Earle, J. and D. Elliot, J. Sprague, Jos. H. Flint, W. Southgate, A. Holbrook and H. Stone.

Had a good Exhibition, and in evening attended Ball, at Hobart's Hall—had musicians and returned at 1 1-2. Scholars danced at William Denny's [Innholder at that time] and had 50 couples—&c."

In Katharine Henshaw's Journal for 1804, describing the celebration of Independence, she writes thus. * * * * * "An excellent Oration was delivered by Samuel Swan."

It will be seen that Samuel Swan was an early and frequent performer at these exhibitions. He was the youngest of the three who constituted the school at the opening of the Academy, June 7, 1784, was a native of Leicester, son of Lieutenant Reuben Swan and born May 6, 1778. He studied Latin when ten years of age. He was sometimes called "the Cicero of Leicester." When a child he used to stand upon a table and repeat verses for entertainment of travellers and visitors at his father's hotel. He was a diligent scholar and was fitted for Harvard College at the age of fifteen. He graduated 1799. He studied the profession of law, and settled in Hubbardston, Mass. At the Academy Exhibitions he delivered orations, recited poems, and took other parts. He delivered the oration at the exhibition July 4, 1804. In his latest years he would repeat portions of Latin addresses, and the Valedictory spoken by him when a boy at Leicester Academy. He died September 27, 1863.

Miss Isabella Southgate, one of the female performers, is commemorated by the following enthusiastic mention in Dr. Pierce's address :

"One was from Scarborough, Maine, niece of the eminent Rufus King. She was a youth of transcendent beauty and accomplishments. Though in my class which I instructed at the University were Dr. Channing, Judge Story, and other respectable scholars, yet I have been in the habit of remarking, that I never have known one, male or female, of a more extraordinary mind than was evinced by that gifted young lady."

Dr. Pierce also refers to these exhibitions as follows :

"We had frequent private exhibitions, which attracted no little attention; but our annual exhibition, corresponding to the present occasion, as there were so few public days of the kind in this region, was a favorite resort from the neighboring towns. Plays were acted in the meeting-house, which was crowded to its full extent. Scenery was constructed. On one of these days, I distinctly recollect, a play excited great attention, entitled the *Scolding Wife*, all parts of which were well sustained; but the heroine of which acted her part to universal admiration. At that time a Congregational minister, in this county, played behind the scenes on a viol the bass of the *Scolding Wife*, a song which was a component part of said play."

NOTE 10.

The many friends of Dr. Clark will be glad to read the following appreciative notices of his life and character, published in the *Hampshire Gazette* at the time of his death, which occurred at Northampton.

DEATH OF PROF. JOSIAH CLARK.

The announcement of the death of Prof. Clark, formerly Principal of Williston Seminary at Easthampton, and Professor of Latin and Greek in Smith College, though not wholly unexpected, was received with expressions of unfeigned regret by all classes of his fellow-townsmen, to whom he had become endeared during the years of his residence here. It will be heard with sorrow and affectionate regret by many, once his pupils, but now scattered over the whole country, for Prof. Clark had, in common with all great teachers, the power of winning the lifelong affection of his pupils. So large a portion of his active life was passed at the head of two of the great preparatory classical schools of the country, that his influence has been widely impressed upon the educated men of the land; while the force and permanence of the impression which was exerted by the unconscious influence of his daily life among his pupils, is a constant power, recognized by all his students, and recalling the traditions of the impress made by the great Dr. Arnold upon the boys of Rugby.

Prof. Clark was sprung from two of the oldest and best-known Northampton families, his mother being Miss Edwards, of Roberts Meadow. His father, the Rev. Josiah Clark, for many years pastor of the church in Rutland, Worcester County, Mass., was also in his early life the Principal of Leicester Academy, one of the oldest of the New England classical schools; and his son, Prof. Clark, was born at Leicester, February 7, 1814, and graduated at Yale College in 1838. He was the youngest of his class, but ranked among the leading scholars.

Among his classmates were Prof. Dana, of Yale College; Prof. George E. Day, formerly pastor of the Edwards Church of Northampton, and now of the Yale Divinity School; and Rev. Mr. Buckingham, now settled in Springfield.

Immediately after graduating, Mr. Clark was for two years Principal of the Westminster Academy, and for two more a teacher in the University of Maryland. He next studied theology at Andover for four years, but his preaching was very limited, soon becoming Associate Principal of Leicester Academy, and then Principal, remaining there till 1849. He was Principal of Williston Seminary from that year till 1863, and did much to build up that institution, besides gaining the warmest affection of those whom he taught. After leaving Easthampton, he settled at Northampton, and for a number of years taught a private school on Round Hill in company with Rev. James F. Spaulding. After that was given up, he received pupils at his house, confining his instruction for the most part to classical studies, till the opening of Smith College in the summer of 1875.

The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Yale College in 1875, and during the first year after the opening of Smith College he taught there with acceptance, and for a few weeks of the second, but the sickness which overcame him then has since prevented all labor. He was inclined to attribute it to a partial sun-stroke, received a year or two before he began teaching at the college, while he was taking a summer afternoon stroll to Hadley Bridge, in company with the late Judge Spaulding, who was also inclined to date the commencement of his own illness to that August walk. The doctors speak of it as a "brain trouble," but fail to name it more definitely. Prof. Clark was an exceedingly lovable man, and a ripe scholar, but was also remarkably diffident and retiring in his intercourse with men. His pastor, Rev. Dr. Hall, speaks of him as one of whom it is scarcely possible to say too much. He was childless, and leaves behind in the family homestead a wife and sister.

PROF. JOSIAH CLARK.

A few words of tribute to the memory of Prof. Clark from a friend who has known him well, and even intimately, for some years past, may be appropriately uttered at this time.

The word "scholar" is very much abused in these days, and is often bestowed, like many other titles, with a great want of discrimination. But, if a true scholar is one who is well instructed in the forms of learning, yet who knows still better and values more highly the substance of it; who is a thorough student of the structure and laws of language, yet recognizes and esteems still more its beauties and its force; who is familiar with the noblest thoughts that have been uttered in many tongues; whose knowledge of the classics is supplemented by a wide acquaintance with modern languages; who is as ready to teach as to learn, and holds his acquirements in no selfish spirit, yet never makes a display of them, but makes use of them freely to instruct, to guide, to encourage, to help those who are willing to learn—if this is to be a scholar in the best and truest sense, then few, if any, among us are more worthy of the name than he.

He was a man who loved truth and loved the search after it. He was neither afraid of it when it was new, nor afraid for it when it was old. He had thought, in many directions, in advance of his time; cautiously, yet really and very decidedly, he refused to be bound by the creeds and limitations of the past, and he cherished for himself, and encouraged others to take, broader and more hopeful views of the Kingdom of God.

Yet he was full of tolerance for narrownesses in which he had no share; seldom does a man so cheerfully and kindly bear to have others differ from him or dispute with him. He believed heartily in the free investigation of all subjects; yet his extensive knowledge of history and of the thoughts of men in the past saved him from anything like rashness or fanaticism in the anticipations of a better future. His charity was wonderful and unfailing; if there was any good, he never failed to see it; and often he would not see the evil,—not from any sympathy with it, but from his love of goodness, and from his strong desire and hope that every one in bondage to evil should overcome it.

His character was one of singular purity and unselfishness. Even a slight acquaintance made one sure that there could never be found in him anything unworthy, or low, or mean, and that his courtesy and kindness, his sympathy with everything good, and his forgetfulness of self, might be relied upon as constant forces.

With all his scholarship, with the wide range of his thoughts, and the high themes on which he loved to dwell, he was always retiring and modest among men, and like a child in his relations with God, and in his trust in God. And this childlike faith and submissiveness bore him up and brought him a peace and hope that rarely failed him, even for an hour,

amid the trials of declining health, and the severer trial of consciously declining mental vigor.

As an instructor of young men, he gained a hold upon their confidence and affection which time and distance did not relax. It was but a few months before his decease that many of his former pupils united in sending to him an expression of their feelings, from which I quote the words that follow: "Though it is many years since most of us left your immediate influence, we nevertheless feel its power for good over us, perhaps more strongly to-day than ever before. You gave us our first idea of what a true scholar should be—an idea which, however enlarged by years, has not yet reached the full measure of the ideal you set before us. Many of us owe to you our best inspirations to high and strenuous effort, and received from your (perhaps unconscious) teaching, nobler and more generous impulses than we had ever felt before."

This is a rare testimony; but we believe it only anticipates the "Well done, good and faithful servant," from the Master's lips.

The friends with whom he loved to associate, and who loved his genial companionship, his keen and polished intelligence, his candor and gentleness, while they mourn with the bereaved family that these can be enjoyed no more on earth, yet share with them in the joy that his cultured mind, and pure, Christlike spirit, has reached the freedom to which he aspired, and out of the growing and terrible bondage of disease, has come into "the glorious liberty of the children of God."

I cannot forbear adding the following notice of Prof. John N. Putnam, Associate Preceptor in Leicester Academy with Dr. Clark, which was handed me by Prof. Fuller of the Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science.

Prof. John N. Putnam inherited classical tastes from his father who was a teacher of languages at Andover, Mass. His preparation for college, begun under his father at home, was continued through the regular course at Phillips Academy and was completed in private studies with Rev. Dr. Thayer of Newport, R. I. He graduated at Dartmouth in 1843, not only at the head of a class of 76 members, but with an average rank attained by only one other graduate of the college, viz., Hon. Walbridge A. Field of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. He taught at Newport, R. I., and at Leicester, graduated at Andover Theological Seminary in 1849, and in the same year entered on his duties as Professor of Greek at Dartmouth, where he continued till his death. He was a scholar of varied and wide attainments; naturally a poet, his translations of Homer were almost as mellifluous as the original. As a teacher he drew rather than drove, yet was most exact, thorough, and inspiring in his work. President Woolsey, I am informed, said of him twenty years ago that he was the best instructor of Greek in New England. He was passionately fond of music and in that and the studies of his department was sometimes so absorbed as to be unmindful of anything else occurring about him, but ordinarily he was a refined gentleman of the best type.

In the spring of 1862 he was offered the chair of Greek Exegesis at Andover Theological Seminary, but declined it on account of ill health, went abroad a year later in quest of rest

and restoration, was attacked with violent hemorrhage at the lungs while in Bonn, Germany, in August, set his face homeward so soon as he had rallied, taking passage on board the ill-fated steamer *Africa*, which was wrecked off the coast of Nova Scotia, and died on the *Alpha* but a few hours out from Halifax towards Boston, about October 25, 1863.

Prof. Charles O. Thompson, in his inaugural at the above institute, alludes to him as one "to whose exact and most elegant scholarship, combined with rare grace of teaching its best results, hundreds of graduates of Dartmouth College, in all departments of practical life, look back with gratitude and admiration as the source of their best methods of thought."

PROSING IN RHYME.

LEICESTER ACADEMY,

SEPTEMBER 4, 1884.

BY REV. THOMAS HILL, D.D.

To boys, how long a century appears !
To us, old men, how short are fifty years !
Once doubling cannot make the little great ;
Hence we must reckon false youth's estimate ;
And though our nurse her century has told,
We'll not admit that she is growing old.
She stands, to-day, in the fresh bloom of youth,
Immortal hand-maid to immortal truth.
Her voice is, like her mistress, still the same
As 'twas when, here, she first to being came,
Here set her chair upon this holy height,
And kindled here her glowing, quenchless light.
She calls, as then, to all who choose to hear,
With no uncertain sound, in accents clear :

“ Come unto me, all ye that would be wise,
Gain here true riches, and the false despise ;
Come, learn the truth to seek, and learn to find ;
Come, eat that living food which feeds the mind ;
Which gives immortal strength ; and, hour by hour,
Adds to the raptured soul new skill and power ;
New skill to trace God's all-embracing plan,
New power to aid and bless a fellow-man.
Yourselves must seek ! I cannot do the whole ;
My simple giving would not aid your soul.
But seek, ‘ mark, learn and inwardly digest ’ ;
Such eating of the truth alone is blessed.
The appetite is kindled by the chace ;
What's eaten thus, with zest, digests apace.

Learn first to seek ; and then you've learned to learn ;
Nothing but work can honest wages earn.
'Labor gives pleasure,' said the Stagirite ;
And Aristotle was, as usual, right.
'Tis also written : ' He who seeks shall find ' ;
To neither saying let your sight be blind.
There's pleasure in the chace, we must admit ;
But, would there be, did ne'er an arrow hit ?
Nay ! all pursuit, whate'er the prize at stake,
Or great or little, hopes to overtake.
Be not misled by those who falsely teach
That, though men seek the truth, they never reach.
In all directions, modern science boasts
Lands, gained and held, on learning's boundless coasts ;
If these, past acquisitions, are but naught,—
Then from what motive can new truth be sought ?
But truth once found remains forever true ;
No lapse of time can alter two times two.
The circle's ratio, in King Cheops' days,
Was built in stone at Ghizeh ; there it stays :
Two thousand years,—and Archimedes found
The selfsame distance measured it around ;
Two thousand more,—and modern science finds
That ratio still the parts together binds.
When then your search rewarded is, at last,
Let not the treasure go ; seize, hold it fast.
He shall grow rich who saves, in part, his gains ;
Who does not, has but labor for his pains.

Nor be deceived by bread and butter rules
For measuring all that may be taught in schools.
A threefold cause to error will condemn
Cui bono rules, and all who trust in them.
For, first, all exercise of skill and strength,
If daily followed, gives new power at length.
See yonder group of boys, who, day by day,
Devote spare hours to active, boisterous play.
Those hours are far from wasted ; they prepare
To bear life's labor, and the weight of care.
The body is the servant of the soul ;

We want it strong, and want it in control ;
 To both which ends these healthful plays will tend,—
 What better reason need their use defend ?
 Thus in the school. Go, study what you will,
 You cannot fail to gain in strength and skill.
 The thing you learn, may never come in play ;
 The acquired strength and skill both always may
 And always will.

But, second, who can tell
 What will prove useless, what will serve you well ?
 Men of fixed purpose sometimes are compelled,
 By adverse winds, to change the course they held ;
 Their careful preparation is thus lost,
 While some chance rubbish, in their locker tossed,
 Takes highest value. ‘Waste not, want not’ ; this
 A maxim good for all occasions is.
 Each scrap of knowledge is a grain of gold ;
 And, on occasion, may have use untold..
 Your Greek and Latin will, in time of need,
 Be aids in learning modern tongues to read.
 The mathematics, which the master sage
 Condemned in Plato,—useless for that age,—
 Now stand a sure foundation, on which rest
 Our modern arts and sciences ; confessed,
 Although, in Plato’s time, mere abstract thought,
 To be most practical of all things taught.
 Such change, to modern Saxon from old Greek,
 Now oft takes place,—almost within a week.
 A law, to-day by dreaming student found,
 Next week may with the ripest fruit be crowned.
 Or some old truth,—that’s taught in every school,—
 May, in new hands, become a useful tool
 To fashion new results. Who shall define
 ’Twixt use and uselessness the boundary line ?
 Seek to find truth, to keep from error free ;
 Assured that truth alone can useful be.
 The highest truth most practical will prove,—
 The Syracusan’s lever which can move
 The world. If on such truth you stand,

You have all nature's forces at command.
Ascend to highest truths ; and thence descend
To applications ; thus alone you bend
Unyielding matter to subserve your end.
So Bacon taught ; no better way has yet
Been found, o'er nature mastery to get.

And, thirdly ; Knowledge in itself is good ;
As needful to the mind as to the body food.
We need the comforts of our outward state ;
The art of living 's never out of date ;
But food and clothing, comforts,—these
Are but the means of putting us at ease.
To live is higher than to merely be
At ease ; from care and need of labor free.
'Tis love alone is life. The fountain flows
From the One Source from which all being rose.
The heart that's open, to receive the stream,
Glow with electric light ; its pulses seem
To shine more brightly than the noonday beam.
'Tis love of truth which leads the mind aright,
And love of beauty which yields pure delight,
And love toward men peace and contentment gives ;
He who loves thus, loves God, and truly lives.

One caution more. Be not deceived by those
Who prate of freedom ; and who count, as foes
To liberty, such teachers as advise
Old truth above new theories to prize.
Freedom to find, and tell, the truth, will pay ;
Will liberty to utter nonsense? Nay.
Freedom is empty space ; not goods nor wealth ;
Good food is needful as fresh air for health.
While Jeremiah's asses snuff the wind
Their life-pulse fails, because no grass they find ;
And modern asses are not saved from death
By simple liberty to waste their breath.
'Tis truth gives freedom ; not alone the new,
But the old truth, for ages known as true.
I serve the truth ; and thus serve liberty ;

Come seek and find the truth ; that makes you free,—
 To roam, at will, throughout the vast domains
 Reclaimed, from unknown wastes, by toil and pains
 Of our forefathers, back to Adam's days,—
 And heirs of all the riches of our race ;
 Aye ! gives you access into paths untrod,
 Rich with the boundless treasures of our God.

Oh, seek and find the truth,
 That truth which makes one free,
 And still renews the strength of youth
 To all eternity.

Not led by serpent lies
 A double course to take ;
 To be in good and evil wise,
 And risky ventures make.

But stand by Truth alone,
 Where all the wise have stood ;
 The honest seeker still will own,
 ' The true includes the good. ' ”

Thus speaks our good old nurse ; old and yet young ;
 Let us receive these counsels from her tongue ;
 And vow together now, both young and old,
 Her and her mistress ever dear to hold ;
 And thus, by clinging to eternal truth,
 Become co-heirs to her immortal youth.

THE DINNER.

ON the conclusion of the exercises in the meeting-house, the procession was again promptly formed by the Marshals and marched at once to the large Yale tent which had been erected on the common, on a portion of the original Academy land; beneath which more than seven hundred persons were soon seated at the dinner-tables.

The chair was taken by the Rev. Dr. A. Huntington Clapp, of New York, as President of the Day; and the Chaplain invoked a blessing upon the gathering and the repast.

The busy scenes and mirthful sounds incident to dinner-time, especially where the party is composed of many hundreds of all ages, renewing old intimacies, recalling old recollections, reviving the days of school-life, comparing past years and pleasures with the present, must be left without further description, as they safely may be;—for the memory of each one present will fill the void; and the many absent children of the old school, not less loyal to it than those present, will not find it difficult to imagine how good it was to be there.

All were ready, when the President called upon the company to sing together, and to the leading of the Cornet Band, the following hymn, in the tune of “Balerna”:

“ How happy is the man who hears
Instruction’s warning voice;
And who celestial wisdom makes
His early, only choice.

“ Wisdom has treasures greater far
Than east or west unfold;
And her rewards more precious are
Than is the gain of gold.

“ In her right hand she holds to view
A length of happy years;
And in her left the prize of fame
And honor bright appears.

“ According as her labors rise
So her rewards increase;
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.”

The Rev. Dr. Clapp then said :—

Fellow Alumni, Alumnae, and Friends of the Academy:

What occasion have we to congratulate ourselves on the rare and exquisite beauty of this day of our festive commemoration. Surely nature never smiled more auspiciously on any gathering. The bright sun, the unclouded sky, the pure air, all conspire to second the warm welcome which our Leicester hosts are so generously giving us.

And not these alone upon whose faces we are looking. We seem to meet, as well, and to hear the loving greeting of those who dwelt here a generation ago, with whose friendship not a few of us, now here, were honored, and the memory of whose kindness in those days when we had need of it will never die out. They have passed over the river; but we seem to feel the grasp of their helpful hands reached down to us once more as we gather about the homes that they made warm and sunny and beautiful while they dwelt in them, and around whose hearthstones their memory is lovingly cherished to-day.

What *is* that mysterious power of nature whereby she so blends with our spirits as to become a part of ourselves, suffusing our whole being with her own ineffable beauty, sweetness, and strength, and, like the love of her Divine author, clinging to us through good and ill, till for us the beauty of earth gives place to the glory of heaven?

One after another, in rapid succession, the individuals of this great company lived a few happy months amid these scenes, and passed on. From widely severed places, and after more widely varied experiences—some in the freshness of their prime, some in middle life, and some of us in old age—we gather here to-day;—and how vividly that past lives anew before us. These hills and vales, this enfolding sky, these fields and groves and streams, are the very same; the lights and shadows chase each other over the landscape as of yore. The people that we loved are here again. The old church where we worshipped displaces for the time this newer and finer structure. We hear the beloved and honored NELSON, true successor of the apostle John, speaking to us his uplifting words of faith and hope. Yea, we ourselves are young again, hopeful, aspiring, reaching

forth unto an unknown but alluring future, as trustfully as if we had never known disappointment.

But we, friends, are only an arc of a far vaster circle. The companions who walked and studied and dreamed with us here, sharing our hopes and aspirations, have *all* come back. Thronging from posts of honorable labor in every part of the land, from across distant seas, and how many from the realm of the immortals—they all are with us to-day. Our clarified vision sees them now. It cannot be memory that so peoples these scenes for us. No; it must be reality. The intervening years fade from our view. The past is present. Changeless nature repays our love with something of her own immortal youth. Let us gladly accept the blessing of the day. For these swift hours let us again be young, joyful pupils of our *alma mater*, met to rejoice in her fruitful past and her vital present; to bring our grateful acknowledgments of a debt we can never repay; and to invoke for her a hundred years to come, more radiant than her brightest past has been.

Coming to the more material feast, the President of the Day referred to the fact that this fourth of September was the anniversary—not quite the hundredth, yet—of his own wedding, with one who rejoiced to be with us here to-day. Though not a Leicester alumna, she was the next best thing, a daughter of Boston, born and reared within sight of the State House dome. They had not anticipated this splendid array of flowers and fruits, this feast of fat things, and this gathering of notable men and women in honor of an event so personal to themselves; and for it all what could he do but express their heartfelt thanks!

A centennial, he said, was not an every-day affair. It took time for an institution like this to grow to the stature of a hundred years. Its buildings, its collection of apparatus, its ever improving system of instruction, the veneration of pupils for its steadily growing influence, all took time. Even this feast before us was not the work of a day; it had taken time to bring from near and far all these good things to tempt and appease our youthful appetites. And then think of the waiting provision for the mind and heart! What time had been given

pages of periods, colons, semicolons, commas, interrogation and exclamation points, &c. The readers were told to take these and pepper and salt the book to their taste. So you will please not only to pepper and salt what I may say with punctuation marks, but you must also furnish me with appropriate language in which to clothe any ideas I may furnish.

I am called upon to respond for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is always a high honor to speak for the State, so I will respond for her in the best possible manner. You have all read and many of you have declaimed Webster's magnificent eulogy on Massachusetts in his immortal reply to Hayne. I will recall it from the chambers of your memory, and let that eulogy be my response for our grand old Commonwealth. I cannot do it better.

Why did our parents send us to Leicester Academy? I know why I came here. It was because my father was a very wise man, and was determined that his boy should go to the very best school. This is why I came here. I shall never forget the long, long night-ride over the hills from Worcester to Leicester, on the top of Hatch's stage-coach. I remember the good Rev. Mr. Colburn who took me to board, and the nice pies good Mrs. Colburn so carefully put away in her closet for safe keeping. Some of them she never saw again. I remember the faithful corps of teachers,—Clark, Putnam and March. Of these, Prof. March made the deepest and most lasting impression on me. I recall with the greatest satisfaction his thorough drill in mathematics, for which I have often since had occasion to thank him. He also taught me the science of book-keeping. I well remember an entry made in the cash book of one of the big boys—it was, oysters and testament 50 cents. How the item was posted in the ledger I never knew, but perhaps Prof. March, who sits by me now, can explain. While I owe so much to Prof. March for my success in life, I am sorry to say that he never gave me any instruction in rhetoric. This is the reason why I am such a failure in public speaking.

One of the pleasantest memories of my school-days here is of that noble, big-hearted boy, George H. Sargent. I can see him now, as I saw him then, imposing and resplendent in a blue swallow-tailed coat adorned with brass buttons. He was the special friend and champion of the small boys. He never allowed any big bully to impose on us. He was always doing some of us a good turn, and, as near as I can find out, he has been doing good turns for somebody ever since.

It is said that "confession is good for the soul," and as I see you are generously inclined to-day, I will make a painful confession. In addition to mathematics and the other regular

studies of the Academy, I learned to play poker here. I will say, however, that Prof. March was not my teacher in this peculiar study, but one Joslyn was. My playing was of short duration, as at one sitting I lost my entire capital of thirty-five cents—all the money I had—so I played no more. When I left Leicester I was utterly bankrupt. I went away in debt. I owed friend Smith ninety cents for pies and cakes. But I wish to say, to correct any bad impressions this fact might leave in your minds, that as soon as my circumstances permitted I paid my debt in full.

A few days ago when on my way to Amherst, President Walker, of the School of Technology, said to me, that he considered that one of the greatest services that General Grant ever rendered his country was that he showed the people that a man could do the greatest deeds and yet be unable to make a speech. Now that I have convinced you that as a speech-maker I am like General Grant, I will stop right here.

The President's honored kinsman, teacher, and friend, Mr. Joseph L. Partridge (now of Brooklyn, N. Y., and the oldest living among former teachers in the Academy), was introduced by the anecdote of a Boston man, of bird-hunting proclivities, who boasted of his marvellously gifted pointer dog. As they were going up Washington Street one day together, the dog looked across the way and suddenly "came to a point." Turning to see the cause of the strange action, what was the owner's surprise to see that the dog had fixed his eyes upon the sign, "A. Partridge." A significant "point" at the beloved old preceptor brought him to his feet.

Mr. Partridge received a warm greeting from the audience, largely composed of his former pupils, and spoke as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT :

I am exceedingly obliged for your very kindly introduction, and equally gratified by the presence of so large a number of old pupils and friends whose faces I see in this audience.

I should be delighted to recall, under these circumstances and with these old associates, the happiest period of my life, when together we enjoyed these academic scenes and found our recreation in roaming the by-paths of these green hills. But the topic you propose points in another direction.

You have called upon me as the oldest living preceptor. This is probably true. In looking over the catalogue of my last year of service, 1845, I find that, of the entire list of Trustees and Teachers, my name alone indicates a survivor.

All of both Boards, with whom I was so pleasantly associated in counsel and labor, have passed from the scenes of the earthly to the immortal. *In pace semper requiescant.*

You have imposed upon me, sir, a large task with little time,—a long succession of preceptors and assistants to photograph in *ten minutes*.

You are aware, sir, that it is a *century life* that passes in review to-day. Not more than three or four teachers of the century have occupied a period of a dozen years each. The other periods have varied from one quarter to five or six years. Of course the whole number has been very large. Dr. Alonzo Hill, at the Alumni reunion in 1855, placed the whole number of teachers at that time at 129, and to this number many have since been added.

This field has been canvassed fully, from time to time, especially the early part of the century. The historian of Leicester, Judge Washburn, has presented a rich thesaurus of facts to which whoever speaks of town or academy must be indebted for much that he has to say. As my connection with the academy commenced just *midway* of the century, and I have been personally acquainted with a large part of the teachers of the last *fifty years*, I *may* perhaps speak more particularly of this period.

The first term of the school opened on the seventh day of June, 1784, with *three pupils*, under the first preceptor, Benjamin Stone, of Shrewsbury, a graduate of Harvard College. And this last fact suggests the principle and purpose of the Trustees at the outset, to appoint only men of high qualifications. This principle they have always endeavored to carry out, and their failures have been few. The three pupils at the opening of the Academy, S. C. Crafts of Sturbridge, son of the original founder, Ephraim Allen of the same town, and Samuel Swan¹ of Leicester, were fitted for and were graduated at Harvard College. All became eminent professional men; Crafts and Swan in the law and Allen as a physician.

And now, Mr. President, in the pressure before us for time, I hesitate to pursue the topic you assigned me. The orator of the day was very naturally led to the same topic. He has so much more fully and suitably epitomized the history and the characteristics of the teachers of the century than I could have done, that I am constrained to desist, and refer my audience to what he has said. In doing this I am reminded of an anecdote quite in place. An honest but simple-minded man, after reading the Psalms, expressed the regret "that David had written these Psalms, for if David had not written them he certainly should have done it." And still I should do violence to my

¹A fine likeness of Mr. Swan was afterwards shown.

own feelings to withhold a brief personal tribute to my own associates in the service.

After Mr. Richardson's term of service expired in 1833, the Trustees appointed as Preceptor and associate Preceptor Luther Wright and Joseph L. Partridge; and in 1834, as assistant, Luther Haven. Mr. Wright continued six years, myself twelve, and Mr. Haven eleven. I do not hesitate from personal knowledge to speak of the very high qualifications for their duties of Mr. Wright and Mr. Haven. They were thorough disciplinarians, critical and comprehensive in their instructions, and always agreeable to the lovers of study. If any pupils shrank from their discipline they were the indolent or the mischievous. I have never heard a pupil of either who did not extol the thoroughness and clearness of their instructions. When Mr. Wright at the end of six years was called to Williston Seminary, I succeeded to his place. Amos Bullard and Josiah Clark, Jr. were successively my associates. The name of Josiah Clark, Jr. is a synonym for high refinement in the ancient classics, and as well in the English language and literature. Mr. Clark succeeded to my place and afterwards to the Preceptorship of Williston Seminary. To the end of his life he was highly esteemed and beloved by all who came under his instructions.

But there was another element in the instruction, introduced about the middle of the century, to which I must call attention. So large had the number of young ladies become, that the Trustees voted to add to the Board of Instructors a *Preceptress*. To this position the first appointee was Miss Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Dr. Jacob Holmes of this town. Miss Holmes was a lady of large accomplishments, both in the amenities of social life and in the branches of a comprehensive female education of that day. Her connection with the Academy continued for thirteen years, and her influence in forming the character of her pupils was a marked feature in the services she rendered. A resolution at the time of her death, now standing upon the records of the Trustees, shows the estimation in which she was held. This position has been occupied to the present time by a succession of accomplished ladies and successful teachers.

The period of which we have last spoken was in point of numbers the most successful of the century.

Our topic brings under review a prominent element of the formative forces, which have given power to this Institution. This force, originating in the instruction and personal influence of its teachers,—cumulative in its long succession of pupils,—has placed this hill-top beacon among the lights of the world. The influence of this Academy, in the elevation of humanity, in the extension of civilization and christianity, has not been

limited by the borders of our own land. It is felt in all continents and islands of the ocean.

Not fearing to compare our own eminent and *titled* men with those of any other country, the President referred to the Leicester EARLES, known in so many fields of honorable service, and called on Dr. Pliny Earle, now and for many years past Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Northampton, to speak for his native town and the old Academy.

Dr. Earle's response was the reading, in a clear, musical voice, of the following lines; his appearance at his old home calling up many interesting memories:

LINES,

BY PLINY EARLE, M.D.

From all the climes of Christendom,
 To Palestina's fields of vine,
 A thousand loyal pilgrims come
 To kneel at Hierosolyma's shrine.
 Arabia's hills and vales along,
 With eye and heart on Mecca set,
 The moslem legions annual throng,
 To kiss the tomb of Mahomet.
 Thus, with the first autumnal flowers,
 Glad pilgrims to thine honored seat,
 We come, O! Alma Mater ours,
 To lay our offerings at thy feet.
 We come, by love and duty led,
 In blessings thine to share a part,
 And once more lay the weary head
 Close to thy warm, maternal heart.
 We kiss thy raiment's sacred hem;
 We place upon thy head a crown
 Brighter than royal diadem—
 The wreath of honor and renown.
 At thought of thee unbidden rise,
 Along the shadowy past, a line
 Of life's most cherished memories—
 The memories of Auld Lang Syne.
 For these we thank thee; but, far more
 We thank thee for thy nurturing hand
 To children who became, of yore
 The guiding spirits of the land.
 From thee and from thy peers we draw
 Germs with benignant blessings rife,

Which bloom in liberty and law,
 The people's good, the nation's life;
 Which yield their fruitage, year by year,
 Like nature's annual miracle,
 In every field of every sphere
 Promotive of the common weal.
 Then take our offerings, mother mine!
 The largess of our fealty;
 Nor deem us, in thy heart benign,
 Unworthy progeny of thee.

Dr. Clapp said :—

THE Academy has helped to fit men for all good offices in church and state, in schools of science, literature, and art. Now and then, concentrating all her best gifts upon a single head, she has tried her hand at making college presidents; and when Harvard wanted a good one she knew where to look for him. We have read sermons, addresses, and elaborate works from Dr. Hill upon a great variety of subjects, but not until to-day had some of us encountered him as a poet. He had shown himself a master in that line, also. Now, we will let him appear in one rôle more, the most difficult of all, as the maker of an after-dinner speech.

Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., said :—

My connection with the Academy, Mr. President, was so very brief that until I received an invitation to this anniversary I was hardly bold enough to claim the honor of being an alumnus.

In the year 1837-38 I held some correspondence with the revered Orville Dewey, then in New York, and with Dr. John G. Palfrey of Cambridge, which led to my coming from New Jersey and beginning the study of Latin and Greek May 6, 1838, with Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins, of Leominster. By his advice I came to Leicester about eight months later, and remained here only eight months when I entered Harvard College. While at Leicester I formed strong attachments, not only to the family of the Rev. Mr. May and to the superintendent of his Sunday School, Mr. Abraham Firth, but to my teachers and to many of my schoolmates,—Little, Walker, Gates, Angier, Whipple, Eaton, Faulkner, Esty, Meriam and others;—attachments comparable to those formed by the longer companionship of a college course. I remember particularly the mild, lovable, intelligent Chinese classmate, who entered Williams when I entered Harvard. I have frequently told his

story as I heard it from his own lips ; his boyhood at Chihungchung, a suburb of Canton ; his fall into atheism ; his voyage to New York ; his conversion to Christianity ; his plans for work in China, plans which he afterwards, I understand, carried partly into effect. I have among my treasures a copy of the Lord's Prayer, written by him in my presence in yonder building, in Chinese characters, with my own attempt to represent in English letters his pronunciation of his Cantonese dialect. Would that every student of the Academy might be as seriously faithful to duty, as earnest in Christian purpose, as was Yong Mong Chung Akum, of Chihungchung, Canton !

Mr. President, I have already taken up enough of your time by *prosing in rhyme* ; yet I cannot forbear to reiterate without rhyme, but I trust not without reason, three conclusions which have been ever growing more immovable in my mind during the forty-five years since I first had the pleasure of public speech upon yonder ground.

First ; Concerning the Elective System in Studies. The individual personality of even the youngest child has a right to be respected ; yet a child has a right to the guidance, as well as advice, of his teachers ; his freedom of election should be only gradually enlarged ; and at first be merely a choice of quantity, while in each of the five great departments of thought a minimum should be required.

Secondly : Concerning Utilitarianism. The attempt to gauge studies by their practical applications to the business of life has in all ages been disastrous ; it was a potent agent in ruining ancient civilization, and threatens the modern. Many evils have arisen from this source during the present century. I quote as an example of the attempts referred to, the attack upon Greek made by the late Dr. Jacob Bigelow, and re-echoed by some living writers of ability. It is affirmed that to a majority of students a knowledge of French or German would be more useful in after life than Greek. Possibly this affirmation is true, although in my own case I learned in college twenty times as much French as Greek, and since graduating have not found a thousandth part as much use for the modern as for the ancient tongue. But the important question is not which language is likely to be of most use in after life, but which is most useful when in college as a study and as an aid in other studies.

Cognate with my second conclusion is my third, concerning Specialties. Every man should have some special work, — a calling, a labor of life. But the best preparation for special work is a general education. A wise Englishman put it well : "You must learn something about everything, in order to learn everything about something." Before you turn your

attention specially to professional study make your education as broad, as deep, as high as you are capable of; but of course you are not to delay too long your special work; nor indeed ever entirely to lose sight of it. The foundation is to be adapted to the superstructure, and you should begin the superstructure upon it while you are yet young and vigorous, and capable of building it. To spend an undue proportion of time upon the foundation is as great an error as to attempt to raise a lofty structure without a foundation. Bacon's rule, as I said in my rhymes, is right, rising to the comprehension of broad principles, thence descending to special applications; *ascendendo ad axiomata, descendendo ad opera*.

Prof. F. A. March, of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, one of the most learned and able advocates of the new phonetic orthography, was introduced as the creator and owner of the English language, who knew all about it, could do what he pleased with it, and could teach others to do the same. Yet with all his learning he couldn't *spell* English worth a cent. He will now prove, however, that he can *speak* it to edification.

Prof. March said:—

I have been asked to speak of the teachers of the Academy. The orator of the day has handled that topic pretty fully, and my old chief, Mr. Partridge, has followed on the same subject, so that I will only speak of the teachers with whom I was most closely associated.

The elder of these, Mr. Clark, has already been mentioned with honor; but he has not been praised too highly. His qualities were not such as most impress the people. He was deeply and soundly learned, but he was modest and retiring. He was a true scholar and devoted teacher, set upon making his pupils more and more noble, more manly and more womanly, day by day, after the manner of Dr. Arnold, whom he admired and studied. The times most characteristic of him in my memory are those in which he was standing before the whole school assembled for morning or evening prayers and saying, as he used to say often, "It is not necessary that we should have a school here of a hundred and fifty scholars, nor of a hundred scholars, but it is necessary that we should have a school of true and honorable young men and women." I have known many excellent and eminent teachers, but no one who suits my ideal of a head-master more completely than Mr. Clark.

His associate, Mr. Putnam, has not been mentioned before, but no one who has ever taught here was a better scholar or teacher. He was one of "Mr. Thayer's boys," one of the best and brightest of that renowned succession of scholars whom the Rev. Thatcher Thayer, of Newport, fitted for college to carry off the honors. He was at this time preparing for the professorship of Greek in Dartmouth College, and he soon after entered on the duties of his professorship. He had every charm of body and mind which nature, and culture, and grace can give. He was a warm lover of beauty in nature and literature, and able to talk gloriously about it. What walks and what talks these hills and streams have known! He died young, and it is now years ago, but I found this summer at Dartmouth that he is canonized there, and his memory is as fragrant as ever.

The history of the Academy under these accomplished scholars was like that of nations in their happy periods. Nothing happened. The boys forgot even to find nicknames for these masters. I am not sure but the girls had pet names for Putnam. The benches were full, especially in the fall term, when twenty or thirty teachers came in to prepare for their winter work. I think our old friend, Mr. Poole, librarian of librarians, known to all the world now by the great *Index of Periodicals*, came up from Yale to help us one fall term. The numbers were said to be the largest ever in attendance. It was a good, quiet, fruitful period, sending forth its hundreds of youth to leaven the land. Many of them are here to-day, Governor Ames is one of them, and Judge French, and Professor Sprague, specimens of our boys in statesmanship, law and letters. I had hoped to see one who is not here, Dr. Austin Flint, the younger, who is the most eminent representative of that time in science, and one of the most eminent Americans.

In counting up the educational influences of Leicester there should be grateful mention of the accomplished women who received the members of the Academy into their families and made them homes here. I will venture to name one who was the friend of several generations of Leicester boys, of whom the Salisburys, the Putnams, the Fosters, the Washburns, the Sargents always spoke with peculiar affection and honor, Miss LAURA FLINT. To have been one of her boys was itself a liberal education.

In introducing Judge Asa French,—of the United States Court of Alabama Claims,—the President acknowledged that, at this table, he had taken rather questionable liberties with dignitaries. But he was shy of *judges*, and should rigidly abstain from chaffing them, not knowing what might happen

to him some day. For once upon a time—it was in the war time—he had been haled before a Washington city police justice and fined five dollars “for fast riding” on a horse whose swiftest possible gait, as its owner made oath, was six miles an hour!

Judge French said:—

Forty years ago I entered this Academy. It is hard to realize that the period which has since elapsed covers well-nigh half the century the close of which we celebrate to-day. But notwithstanding the lapse of so many years, I come back again with “heart untravelled,” cherishing the most delightful recollections of those early days, of the school, its teachers, the good people of the town, and of my old companions, some of whom I see around me, but many have gone to their final rest.

There were several reasons why it was thought best to send me here,—chief among them was the reputation of the school for thorough instruction,—a reputation which I am happy to believe it has maintained to the present day. Moreover, my old minister, the Rev. Dr. Richard Salter Storrs, for sixty years pastor of the first church in Braintree, happened to be a classmate in college and an intimate friend of Dr. Nelson, then President of the Board of Trustees of the Academy, and, of course, his advice was sought before so important a step was decided upon. But what ultimately settled the question, was the fact that good old Samuel Colburn lived here, and furnished board and a godly example to unsophisticated boys like myself. To him was intrusted the grave responsibility of looking after me, and it grieves me to think that it was one of the severest trials of his otherwise serene and happy old age!

I have here the programme of exercises on my graduation day, August 10, 1847, from which it appears that the Latin Salutatory was assigned to me. That address has also been preserved, and as a guaranty of the purity of its Latin, I need only say that it was revised by Mr. Clark. I shall not undertake to read it here, because, being in a dead language, few, if any, of the older graduates would understand it! We also performed two dramatic pieces, in one of which I appeared as a country lawyer, and in the other as a midshipman. Possibly the first of these characters may have suggested to me the profession which I afterwards adopted; and to the second may be attributed the fact that I became captain of the boat crew in my college class, one of the Fish Commissioners of this State, and, finally, a member of the Court of Alabama Claims, which, as you are aware, has to deal with maritime questions.

In my time there existed in this institution a deliberative body called “The Social Fraternity,” which discussed, and

summarily disposed of, all the great questions of the day, as well as matters especially connected with the Academy.

There was a place of resort, too, at the foot of the hill, familiarly known as "Chilson's," where Mr. Evi Chilson kept for sale the pies, cake and beer necessary for our evening sustenance. It happened, also, that he had a fine apple-orchard, and one night some boys, who were fond of apples, visited that orchard and took and carried away to their rooms in the Academy building a bag-full of the fruit. Unfortunately they had to pass the room of Mr. Haven at the foot of the second flight of stairs, and still more unfortunately at the top of that flight the bag fell and all the apples rolled to the bottom! It is hardly necessary to say that the boys were not long in getting into bed after that, or that Mr. Haven was but little longer in getting out! The suspected parties were brought up, a trial was had, which proceeded upon the not unreasonable theory that "every boy under suspicion is presumed to be guilty, until he has proved himself innocent," and the upshot of the whole matter was, that they were convicted and expelled, notwithstanding ample restitution had been made to Mr. Chilson for the apples. Now these unfortunates were members, in good and regular standing, of the Social Fraternity, of which it was my misfortune at the time to be president. A special meeting was called to take suitable action in the premises, and a Committee on Resolutions appointed, which on the evening of the second of October, 1845, reported a series of Resolves, the meaning and intent of which, unlike some party platforms, it was not at all difficult to make out! I hold in my hand probably the only copy of those Resolves now in existence. Enough to say of them, that, while condemning the act of the boys in taking Mr. Chilson's manner of conducting their trial, and the severity of the apples, equally severe language was used in regard to the sentence. They were adopted, after some discussion, by a vote of 22 to 7, and thereupon the Faculty, with still greater unanimity, proceeded to expel four, and to suspend three, of those who acted with the majority! So ended that "independent movement"! Of my associates in that struggle who were permitted to return to the school, I soon after lost sight of all save one. Allston W. Whitney, my chum and most intimate friend, was the son of Dr. Simon Whitney, for many years the leading physician of Framingham and its vicinity. His mother was a relative of President Walker of Harvard University. After leaving here he entered the Military Academy at West Point, but finding the physical discipline too severe, he took up the study of medicine and surgery, and was graduated at the Harvard Medical School, and early won an enviable place in

the profession. In July, 1861, he was mustered into service as surgeon of the 13th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, continuing as such until the Regiment was mustered out, August 1, 1864, and during that time was appointed Medical Director of the Division, in which position he was distinguished for exceptional abilities as a surgeon, and uniform kindliness of heart. In May, 1863, after one of the severe battles of the war, he was left in charge of the seriously wounded on the Union side, at Fitz-Hugh House, near White Oak Church, Virginia, and remained with them until they were captured by the enemy and subsequently incarcerated in Libby Prison, where he was allowed to continue his care of them, and by his efforts hastened their exchange, remaining a prisoner himself for a period of six months. At the close of the war he resumed the practice of his profession in Newton, where he continued until he died, about two years ago, honored and lamented by all who knew him. Leicester Academy may well be proud of such a son, and I am glad to be permitted to pay this public tribute to his memory.

There is much more of "unwritten history" connected with this old school which I might narrate, but the time allotted to me has already been occupied.

Mr. President, in the ancient town of Braintree, where I was born and now reside, there is a kindred institution to this, just entering upon the eighth year of its existence, known as "Thayer Academy." It was founded and munificently endowed by the late General Sylvanus Thayer, who was the first Superintendent of the West Point Military Academy, and a native of Braintree. I have the honor to be a member of the Board of Trustees of that Academy, and I bear cordial greetings from the younger to the elder sister, and hearty congratulations that at the close of a century she still retains the strength and vigor of her earlier years. So may it always be with her, and may her children, and her children's children, for centuries to come, rise up as we do now to call her blessed!

After Judg  French had thus spoken, and confessed to sundry peccadilloes, among them a nocturnal raid on Mr. Evi Chilson's best apple tree, the President formally withdrew all expressions of deference for *this* judge, grown from a boy who had the heart to poach on the property of good "Uncle Evi." Lives there a man (a Leicester graduate) with soul so dead, as to have forgotten the savor and aroma of Uncle Evi's spruce beer and cookies—the nectar and ambrosia of his Academy days? He may have eaten the confections and sipped the sherbets of the orient; may have feasted on the rarest delicacies of every

land—but those “goodies” of Uncle Evi can never be equalled, till youthful appetite returns, and *he* comes back to dispense them. Let the judge who made away with the good man’s apples repent of his misdeeds in dust and ashes!

The President said he had been struck with the wealth of fruit, particularly of pears and apples, weighing down the trees on all the roads leading to Leicester; a sight he had never seen surpassed. On reaching this hill he learned the explanation: the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture resided here, and had been making special preparations for this centennial, and had so used his official position as to concentrate the State’s entire product for the season on the trees of his own county. The attractions of Leicester were so overpowering that he adopted it as his home. He appropriately speaks for the boys and *girls* of Leicester Academy.

John E. Russell, Esq. “acknowledged the corn” in the following manner:—

How can I, in the brief space allotted to me, attempt to speak for that great multitude of youth that have gone forth from this institution to take their parts in a hundred years of American life and progress; that have been scholars, statesmen, founders of empires in the wilderness, good men and women in every part of this wide nation. I can only speak of those of my own time, some of whom are here to-day, and lament that so many return no more with us. Thirty-five years make great changes in boys and girls that remain, and there are many over whose tombstones the mosses of years have been creeping.

We who are here are not changed in feeling; our heads are touched with frost, but I know there is no coldness in the love that we bear to these scenes of our youth; and though loss and sorrow that must come into all lives, however guarded, have marked lines of care in our faces, the memories of our school-days are still fresh in our hearts.

I have been spoken of as one who returned in after years to marry in Leicester. I am not the only good example of such a marriage; my neighbor Mrs. Harriet Flint came a pupil from Vermont, and afterwards married Dr. Edward Flint. She has lived here more than sixty years. I regret that the infirmities of age prevent her from joining us at these tables.

After years of wandering, we were impelled by strong affection for the friends we had left to return to these dear hills. Here we remain; no other place on earth can have for us such charms of association. No other people can ever manifest to us such kindly sympathy.

Have I not chosen the better part? Have I not been more fortunate than [my fellows? I have found that repose which is rarely attained, "the world forgetting, by the world forgot," and a true happiness that the realization of the dreams of ambition can never afford.

Colonel Homer B. Sprague, formerly Principal of the Worcester High School and now Head-Master of the High School for Girls in Boston, was next introduced, as one who, having been a Leicester scholar, has long been known as an eminent school teacher.

Colonel Sprague said :—

Had I been called to speak earlier in the afternoon, I might have pursued a different train of thought. But the past has been so thoroughly presented in the able historical address to which we have listened, and in reminiscence after reminiscence, and description after description, and tribute after tribute to the memory of beloved instructors and munificent donors, that I venture a glance at the *future* of this and kindred institutions. I may do this the more appropriately, as, with the exception of a brief passage in the eloquent address of the President of the Trustees, and one or two other allusions, our eyes have been turned backward and not forward to-day.

I predict then in the near future great prosperity for this and for all sound institutions of secondary instruction. We are on the eve, if I mistake not, of a great revival, a great forward step in education. The instruction that has been given in the public schools of Massachusetts and of New England has been an admirable beginning; but it is only a beginning. Waiving all other considerations of the ends to be subserved by education in public schools, the one vital object for which, more than for any other, the public schools of New England were established and are still maintained, viz., to prepare the young for intelligent and patriotic citizenship, has not been accomplished. To know the rights and to discharge the duties of citizens in these times is an immense task. To manage the interests of a single town skilfully, with its hundreds of important questions pressing for decision by the voter in town-meeting, may well tax the wisdom of the wisest. But this is a very slight matter compared with the management of the public interests of a great city. A city like Boston or Worcester is a vast business corporation, carrying on enterprises of a hundred kinds and on a gigantic scale. The St. Louis alderman who refused to vote a statue to Shakespeare because the great dramatist was a Chicago man — the New York magnate who thought it would be an extravagant

expenditure to buy six gondolas for the pleasure-ponds, but was willing to compromise by buying two gondolas, provided one should be a male and the other a female—the Cincinnati common council-man who opposed the Lord's Prayer in opening the public schools in the morning, because he saw no sense in requiring the children at that time of day to repeat "Now I lay me down to sleep"—illustrate at once the endless variety of public interests and the profound ignorance of rulers. Boston spends perhaps fifteen to twenty millions of dollars a year for the most dissimilar and some of them the most absurd purposes. The voter in a city passes judgment directly or indirectly upon every measure of the city government, and it requires wonderful intelligence and fidelity to judge rightly. But when we rise to the multitudinous and enormous interests of a great State like Massachusetts, touching us by its legislation at every point and at every moment from the cradle to the grave, submitting to every voter questions of vast magnitude; sometimes directly, as prohibition or license, the adoption or rejection of a constitutional amendment; sometimes indirectly, as at every State election,—for men stand for measures;—when we think of these tremendous interests, we ask with concern, who is sufficient for these things? What education shall we give him who is to solve problems so many and so momentous? But this is not all. Greater than the State is the nation, and greater than the nation is humanity. I do not feel that I am adequate to the complete understanding and to the correct decision of the complicated, the innumerable, the pressing, the vital issues, some of them of world-wide importance, that have been forced upon the attention of every citizen of this republic during the last twenty-five years, and which every citizen by his voting or by his failure to vote has helped to decide. Not one in a hundred of the voters of this republic is competent to do this. Hence the blunders, the follies, the dishonesties, the crimes, the shames, the dangers, the anxieties, the miseries, the burdensome taxes, under which we have groaned for the last twenty-five years. Our civil war, with its eight hundred thousand deaths and its ten thousand million dollars annihilated, is but one illustration of the penalties we pay for the dense ignorance and the dormant or misguided patriotism of the masses.

Now the suffrage cannot be restricted. The power in the hands of the ignorant millions cannot be wrested from them. There is one remedy, and only one, for all the political evils which we feel or fear. The voters must be educated; they must be educated to a far higher extent than now. The three R's, the mere rudiments of knowledge, are totally insufficient to qualify anybody for citizenship. A primary education, a grammar-school education, is, of course, better than none, but

it falls far short of being any guarantee of sufficient intelligence and sufficient patriotism. Nothing short of what is called a secondary education, a thorough course in high school or academy, is enough. And the masses must receive it, until a clear and controlling majority in every community fully understand their rights and duties, and heartily and continually labor to serve their country. A clear controlling majority of patriotic voters, who have received at least a good secondary education in high school or academy, is the one thing needful to secure the easy, safe, and efficient working of our political system.

How shall that majority be secured? It must be through the public schools or the endowed academies. It cannot be done by compulsory legislation. It may be right to compel the attendance of children to a limited extent. I do not question that right. But you cannot carry compulsion far. It is contrary to the genius of our institutions. It works hardships, and the people never will be driven through grammar schools even. There is a better way than that; it is to draw the children into high schools and academies by liberal pecuniary rewards for good scholarship and good conduct. If necessary, I would have the town or city, or, better still, the State, or, best of all, the nation, with its hundred millions a year of surplus revenue which it does not know what to do with, offer to every boy or girl completing successfully a prescribed course of secondary instruction, in which civil government should be a prominent study, a sum of money equal in amount to half or even to all that the child could earn, if kept at labor during those school months.

This secondary education of the masses is my remedy for the thousand-fold evils that loom up in every quarter of the political horizon, burdening us with heavy loads of taxation and yet heavier loads of dishonor, and torturing all thoughtful minds with deep anxiety. And I venture to predict that this remedy will be applied. The resources of high schools and academies will be taxed to the utmost to supply the demand. This whole people is to be educated. Never before were so many earnest men and women studying this subject; never before was intelligent patriotism on the part of every citizen seen to be so indispensable; never before was the national treasury so well supplied with the means for carrying on a vast system of public instruction. I do not point out in detail how it is to be done. The first step is to awaken the public mind to the vital necessity. Immortal honors await those who shall convince the nation, now mad in the pursuit of gain, that "wisdom is above rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her; length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor; her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace."

The President said an illustration was about to be given of one of the passages in the Academy's history to which the Orator of the Day had referred, namely, the military drill and organization which obtained here in Governor Everett's time; and the company suddenly saw, drawn up in array near them, a line of extemporized soldiery, under command of one well known here formerly as "Captain Cunningham," who briefly repeated with his *minute-men* some of their old manœuvres, and marched them around the tent, to the music of the Leicester Band, as once Jericho was encompassed by a marching host, but with results quite otherwise. Nothing fell down,—not even the thermometer;—but the good feeling manifestly rose.

The company again composed themselves to listen, and a letter was read from William F. Poole, Esq., of Chicago, the eminent librarian and bibliographical author. It will be found on a subsequent page.

Rev. M. B. Angier, of Newburyport, a former pupil, was next introduced. He spoke of Leicester as a typical New England town; typical in its churches and ministers, its academy and teachers, and in the general culture, intelligence, moral and christian worth of its most estimable families. When, he said, I first became a pupil of the Academy, Dr. Nelson had been the beloved pastor of the Congregational Church for about a quarter of a century; "in all things showing himself a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that could not be condemned"; yet withal genial and winsome to the young. Mrs. Nelson was the fitting complement of her husband in the exhibition of those virtues which have made the rural New England parsonage, of the better type, a synonym for the home of "whatsoever things are pure, lovely and of good report." "The Nelson cottage!" May its original lustre never grow dim, as surely it never will so long as the jewel which it still retains shall continue as now its chief adornment. The young pastor of the Unitarian Church was the Rev. Mr. May, on whose ministry I attended during the earlier part of my pupilage at the Academy, and with whom ever since I have maintained the most cordial relations, in a friendship which has ripened into an affectionate esteem at once for himself and his most worthy family. May the shadow of the May mansion that adorns the brow of "The Hill" never be less; and may the honored name in which alone it has stood from the beginning be that by which it shall be known to coming generations.

I have said that Leicester Academy was a typical educational institution. This is true as regards its excellence generally and the character and accomplishments of its corps of instructors during my connection with it. The teachers were principals Wright and Partridge, Luther Haven, Miss Holmes, and subsequently the Rev. Amos Bullard. I call the Academy of that day "The Rugby" among the New England academies, and Luther Wright the Dr. Busby of his day. Mr. Partridge was *the gentleman* of the institution, as President Woolsey styled the senior Silliman the gentleman of Yale College. The gentle and dignified bearing of Miss Holmes and her grace in the school-room are remembered by all of that period. Luther Haven was the thorough teacher and the somewhat stern disciplinarian; though most kind of heart to the studious and obedient; and Mr. Bullard was the most finished classical instructor I ever knew, with the single exception of President Woolsey of Yale College. In after years Mr. Bullard was my brother and neighbor in the ministry, and died in the prime of his christian and scholarly manhood, universally esteemed and lamented. But to complete the typical character of the Academy in all its departments, its pupils of course must have been the counterpart, or the complement, of its instructors. And this, certainly, was the fact, because the speaker was one of them, if not a fitting type of the whole corps! But what gave special charm to our student-life at Leicester (covering a period of four years) was the fact that full one-half of the school consisted of the daughters of families in the town, and of other families scattered through the towns in "the heart of the old commonwealth." Ever since my experience at Leicester, therefore, I have been a hearty advocate of the co-education of the sexes wherever and whenever the regulations are as wholesome as at Leicester Academy, located in the very heart of christian homes, whose culture, virtue, and good breeding I have never seen excelled either in this country or in the homes of England. And from some of the choicest domestic circles abroad in which it has been my privilege to mingle, I have turned to the cultured homes on "Leicester Hill"; being drawn to them in imagination as strongly as the hunger and thirst of brother Clapp in Rome made him long for the refreshment which friend Chilson at the foot of the hill alone could furnish.

Now if you inquire further for the *secret* of Leicester's ministers and churches, its academy, teachers and pupils, and its well-ordered homes, you will find it, I think, in the healthful puritan spirit which has always been the predominant feature of the town: in the reverent observance of God's day, His house, His word, His worship: a principled regard for the highest standards of education, morals and religion.

Captain J. Waldo Denny, of Boston, was introduced as one returning to the home of his youth after many varied experiences, in war-time and otherwise. His response was in verse, and as follows :—

One hundred years has marked the course of time,
 Since Leicester's Halls have mustered into line
 The sons and daughters of New England's pride,
 Who 're scattered now o'er land and waters wide;
 In church and state, in college and in trade,
 In *every* walk of life their mark is made;
 In country's stress they pressed to battle's plain,
 Brave soldiers all — dishonored by no stain !

The little boys of forty years ago
 Who frolicked o'er these hills as winds did blow —
 Who studied *some*, of Latin and of Greek —
 Then, *tired*, went out the Leicester girls to seek,
 Or bent their steps to Mulberry Grove, to see
 The Quaker maids who lisped of "thou" and "thee,"
 And on the way "hooked" apples and green corn,
 Or homeward bound, so nervous and forlorn,
 That, like St. Paul, their courage only came
 As oped the door of Chilson's beer domain !

These little boys have all returned to-day —
 Returned with portly forms and hairs of gray,
 To greet their *Alma Mater* with their lay !
 Backward on mem'ry's wing we take our flight
 And see the stalwart form of *Luther Wright*,
 With *Partridge* and the well remembered *Clark* ;
 Forgetting not that prowler in the dark,
 Single-handed *Haven*, whose steady tread
 Was ever in our dreams — the bad boys' dread !
 Those were the tutors of our school-boy days,
 Who *tried* to turn our thoughts in studious ways.

To-day, united, old and young confess
 For this old school they wish a great success
 In moulding youthful minds on nature's plan,
 To give them *all* that doth become a man !
 God makes the child, but what he is to be
 In future years, like Leicester's oaken tree,
 Is settled best by how the twig is bent
 To steady growth — and by the heart's intent.
 The light of school may not illume a bit
 Unless the *lamp within* is *full* and *lit* ;
 Never is man made man by book alone —
 "God helpeth them that help themselves," is shown.

With thoughts like these, of growing manhood's claim,
 We've met to fight our battles o'er again;
 The younger boys may hail the *rising* sun —
 We give *our* bow to those whose course is run!

Rev. A. C. Denison, of Middlefield, Connecticut, in former years colleague-pastor with Rev. Dr. Nelson and Trustee of the Academy, was next called upon. He, too, answered in verse, after a cordial welcome from his many friends in the audience, as follows:—

Mr. President, I will follow your advice in making two or three points and sticking to them. My first point is to ask my friend Colonel Partridge to point his revolver ready to shoot in forty-five seconds. My second, to point to our two Hills, Leicester Hill and Thomas Hill, eminent alike in nature and in grace; massive strength and solidity robed with beauty and verdure; both crowned with learning and religion, how beautiful and grand the outlook they give us to-day!

Let me point to our Alma Mater and her children.

1.

Our honored mother! fair she stands
 With open house and open hands,
 To welcome back her children here
 On this her proud centennial year.

2.

And so from far and near we come
 Wide-wandering children to our home,
 Our Alma Mater here to greet,
 Our friends of bygone years to meet.

3.

These pleasant vales and massive hills,
 These smiling lakes and laughing rills,
 Are little changed from year to year.
 Ah! not so we who gather here!

4.

It may be we shall never more
 Clasp hands upon this earthly shore;
 But may we an unbroken band
 All meet at last at God's right hand!

The Rev. J. L. Jenkins of Pittsfield, Hon. Velorous Taft of Upton, and Judge C. C. Esty of Framingham, each addressed

the company in brief and very acceptable remarks, which, however, not being furnished to the Committee, must with many regrets be omitted.

Abraham Firth, Esq., of Boston, a former pupil, and for many years an honored citizen of this town and county, being prevented from attendance, sent the following :

Leicester Academy : Fifty years ago its teachers gave many of its scholars their first glimpses of a larger world than they had known, for which they have been ever held in grateful remembrance. Honored be their memories ! Honored, also, their faithful successors !

Mr. William B. Earle of Needham, a native of Leicester, and a pupil here more than sixty years ago, was introduced to the audience as having journeyed hither unattended, though totally blind, to take his part and manifest his interest in this occasion.

The President gave a cordial welcome to Mr. Earle ; who spoke briefly in acknowledgment.

Rev. Samuel May said :—

Mr. President, as we bring to a close these edifying and delightful exercises, may I say a very few words ?

We have pitched our tent to-day—literally so—upon the very ground, once the Jew merchant's, which Ebenezer Crafts of Sturbridge and Jacob Davis of Charlton came to Leicester and bought for this Academy. May we not speak of it, after all we have heard to-day, as hallowed ground ? What deep and earnest thought, what patient labor, what high resolve, what fervent aspiration, what lofty self-consecration, this spot has witnessed ! Yes, it is hallowed ; a sacred spot to a multitude of hearts, yet warmly beating in the service of God and man ; and even more sacred by the memory of those who "have fallen asleep," whose works have followed them to be their witnesses before the Judge, while their influence here—*manet et manebit in omne volubilis ævum.*

This town, Sir, has lately been giving distinguishing names to its streets and public places. To this square where we sit, and upon which stands the Academy, with other public buildings, it has given the name of WASHBURN SQUARE. The name commemorates at once Captain Seth Washburn, who led the Leicester company hence to Cambridge and Bunker Hill, April 19, 1775, and his eminent grandson,—pupil and teacher in this Academy, and its pains-taking historian,—Governor Emory Washburn.

The great numbers present here to-day, assembled from so many places near and distant, are a living testimony to the substantial and various service which Leicester Academy has rendered in the past. Its record is high and honorable. And for its future, what shall we say? Let its work be pursued and extended. Let its standard be maintained and elevated. Its reputation must not decline but increase. Its sons and its daughters everywhere will join in the wish and prayer for its prosperity. ESTO PERPETUA.

It was now past six o'clock; the evening social meeting was yet to be held; and the festival of the afternoon was brought to a close, with expressions of thanks to the President, the several speakers, and all others who had joined to make the occasion so satisfactory and so successful.

We would not fail to mention the large contribution of flowers and plants, towards the decoration of the church and the tables, which gave so much pleasure to all in attendance, being arranged under the direction of Mr. William Bisco, of Leicester.¹

The day appropriately ended with a very delightful social re-union at the Academy, and a concert on the grounds by the Leicester Cornet Band. The evening was one of the most beautiful of the season, and a large number of the former pupils assembled in Smith Hall and the other halls of the Academy, and passed a few hours in greeting old friends, recalling old memories, and reviving old associations.

In the course of the evening the company were called to order, and, on motion of Mr. George H. Holden, of New York, an association of the Alumni of Leicester Academy was formed.

¹ "Beautiful in itself, the church was made doubly attractive by a profusion of trailing vines and flowers, among which varieties of the fern, lily, hydrangea, gladiolus, geranium, and petunia shone conspicuous. Above the speaker's head a bright canary from his gilded cage looked over the assembly with critical eye, had his own thoughts evidently, but wisely kept silence."—"HUNTINGTON," in *The Congregationalist*.

The following gentlemen were elected officers :

President :

Hon. OLIVER AMES, Easton, Mass.

Vice-Presidents :

EDWARD B. WESLEY, Esq., New York.

Hon. W. W. RICE, Worcester.

Rev. SAMUEL MAY, Leicester.

Colonel HOMER B. SPRAGUE, Boston.

GEORGE H. SARGENT, Esq., New York.

Dr. JOHN N. MURDOCK, Leicester.

Colonel JOHN N. PARTRIDGE, Brooklyn, N. Y.

JOHN E. RUSSELL, Esq., Leicester.

JOHN BROOKS, Esq., Boston.

GEORGE H. HOLDEN, Esq., New York.

H. ARTHUR WHITE, Esq., Leicester.

Dr. F. A. BRIGHAM, Shrewsbury.

ALEXANDER DEWITT, Esq., Worcester.

C. B. HOWE, Esq., Worcester.

Secretary and Treasurer :

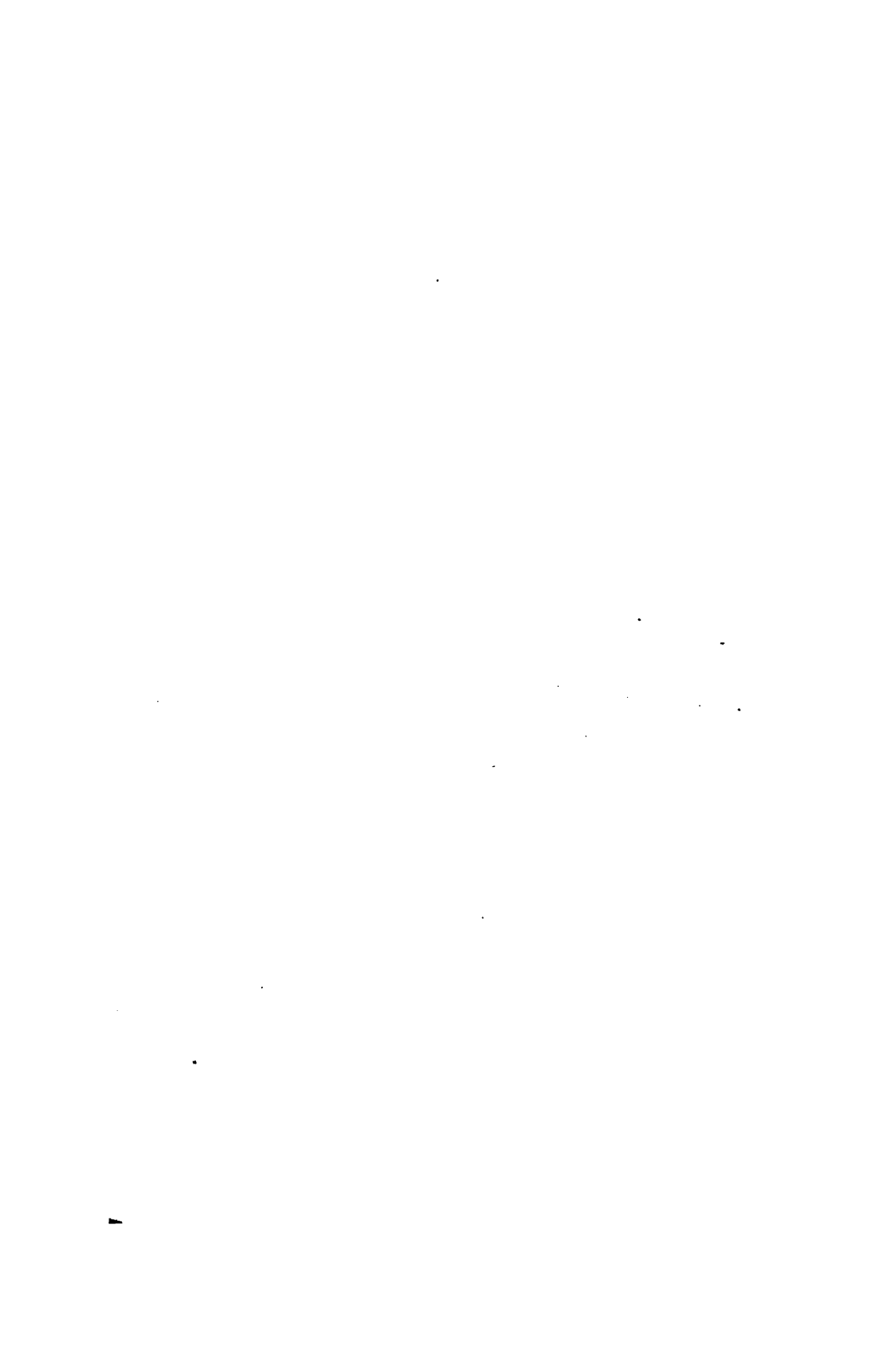
Hon. CHARLES A. DENNY, Leicester.

The President was conducted to the chair by Dr. J. N. Murdock and Hon. C. A. Denny, and was greeted with hearty cheers.

It was then voted to request the Executive Committee of the Trustees to publish the proceedings of the day, and the formal meeting of the association was adjourned, and conversation resumed.

Among those present during the day, in addition to those already named, were Rev. Sumner Lincoln of Wilton, N. H., a pupil in 1816 under Josiah Clark the elder; George B. Hyde, Esq., of Boston, of 1827; Henry A. Denny, Esq., of Worcester, a former trustee; Stephen Salisbury and Samuel S. Green, Esqs., of Worcester, Allan L. Joslin, Esq., of Oxford, and W. F. Holman, Esq., of Leicester, of the present Trustees; Burritt A. Smith, Esq., of Worcester, a former Principal; Mrs. Mary Ann Bullard, of Cambridge, Rev.

Henry C. Graves, of Haverhill, and Miss Mary A. Phipps, of Prospect, Conn., former teachers; Dr. Nathan Allen of Lowell; Professor Homer T. Fuller, Principal of the Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science, Worcester; John Fiske, Ph.D., of Harvard College; ex-Mayors Clark Jillson, E. B. Stoddard, and S. E. Hildreth, of Worcester; Rev. Dr. W. D. Love of South Hadley; Rev. Daniel Wight and Austin Bacon, Esq., of Natick; Dr. F. A. Brigham of Shrewsbury; Mrs. Amos D. Wheeler, of Topsham, Maine; James Brooks, Esq., of Petersham; Rev. J. D. Potter, of Westboro; Rev. C. W. Munroe, of Cambridge; Charles C. Burr, Esq., and Isaac T. Burr, Esq., of Newton; Hon. E. I. Thomas, of Brookline; Rev. Henry C. Fay, of Northwood, N. H.; George Sumner, Esq., William A. Smith, Esq., S. R. Heywood, Esq., Harvey B. Wilder, Esq., Col. J. A. Titus, Messrs. H. M. Wheeler, F. Whipple, L. B. Witherby, of Worcester; John A. Whipple, Esq., of Boston; Mrs. J. C. Pynchon, of Springfield; George H. Sargent, Esq., of New York; Emerson Stone, Esq., of Spencer; Ledyard Bill, Esq., of Paxton; Major B. D. Dwinnell, of Fitchburg; Samuel D. Ward, Esq., of Shrewsbury; Joseph D. Warren, Esq., of Providence; and Rev. Miss Lorenza B. Haynes.



LETTERS.

It seems desirable to preserve the following letters and extracts of letters, received by the Committee of Arrangements from former trustees, teachers, pupils and friends of the Academy, as of more than passing interest :

Letter from EDMUND J. MILLS, Esq., a pupil in 1803.

SUTTON, *October 28, 1884.*

Rev. A. H. COOLIDGE,

Dear Sir :

My first visit to Leicester, in 1798, at the ordination of my uncle Zephaniah Moore, is in distinct remembrance. As a boy of twelve, I was a pupil in the Academy under the tuition of Mr. Adams. Mr. Whipple I also remember as a teacher of reading. At the time my uncle left I was still a member of the school.

The wonderful progress and improvement in all things, educational and otherwise, makes a deep impression upon my mind, as I contrast the times, the customs, the people of those my childhood's days with the present.

My personal recollections are not of sufficient interest to cite in this place.

Thanking you, Sir, for your kind consideration and polite attention,

I remain yours truly,

EDMUND J. MILLS.

From Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR.

WORCESTER, *September 3, 1884.*

I am sorry that I cannot be at Leicester to-morrow. I should like to express my respect for the venerable institution, of which I was formerly a trustee, and to hear Mr. Rice, always so well worth hearing. But I cannot give the day to that pleasure and fulfil other imperative duties.

Yours very truly,

GEO. F. HOAR.

From Mrs. HERBERT WILLIAMS, a sister of Mrs. Dr. Nelson.

MICHIGAN CITY, *June 24, 1884.*

* * * I was a pupil at Leicester Academy 76 years ago. That was then the seat of learning for the region round about, and many pupils came from afar. I owe much of the education I attained to the instruction given there. My last teacher was Rev. Josiah Clark of Rutland.

* * * I enjoyed visits at Col. Wm. Henshaw's. I was intimate in the family of Dr. Austin Flint, and the families of Denny and Washburn.

Later, Ruth Washburn (sister of Gov. Emory Washburn) attended my wedding and I hers. I had a letter from her last July, in which she writes, "I am 81, and still able to attend to my little domestic affairs, the family consisting only of myself and husband."

More recently I read a notice of her death, as widow of Rev. Joseph Muenschner; by which it seems both have passed away within a year. I am but a remnant of my generation.

I have good health, but feel that I must be "Nearing Home."

Respectfully,

LUCY B. WILLIAMS.

From Rev. DAVID BRIGHAM, once a teacher.

BRIDGEWATER, *August 14, 1884.*

To the Trustees of Leicester Academy,

Rev. President, and Gentlemen:

I hereby gratefully acknowledge the reception of your generous invitation to attend the approaching centennial of the venerable and noble institution above named. Most gladly would I be personally present on that occasion, but the infirmities of age prevent; the *ninetieth* anniversary of my birth occurring two days previous to your celebration—*September 2d*. With fervent wishes for the highest enjoyment of the centennial, and for the future prosperity of Leicester Academy, I am, gentlemen, in the interests of sound learning, yours,

DAVID BRIGHAM.

From EDWIN CONANT, Esq., a pupil, 1822 to 1825.

WORCESTER, *August 16, 1884.*

* * * Mr. Richardson taught us all the mathematics required for entering college. Little in that time beyond common arithmetic was taught in the English department in my day. He taught students in such branches of the higher

mathematics as their several occasions required. He did not at all limit his work to branches required in the college course. His loving talk about the "differential calculus" for instance, though perhaps incomprehensible to us, is not forgotten. He taught navigation, using Bowditch's book. His use of the quadrant was to us uninitiated about as wonderful as an astrologer's cast of a nativity.

* * * In 1829 I was present at an Exhibition in the "chapel" when John W., afterwards George, Lincoln spoke from Sir Walter Scott,

"Blount and Fitz Eustace rested still
With Lady Clare upon the hill;"

closing in powerfully eloquent style,

"Charge, Chester, charge, on Stanley, on,
Were the last words of Marmion!"

I have wondered whether his taste in this selection was an index of his probable course in after life. You will remember that he was killed in gallantly rallying a Union regiment to follow his lead in a dashing charge upon Santa Anna's forces.

Respectfully,

EDWIN CONANT.

From W. F. POOLE, Esq.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHICAGO, *August 22, 1884.*

Rev. A. H. COOLIDGE,

President of Trustees, Leicester Academy.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to receive your kind personal letter, with circular, inviting me to attend the Centennial Celebration of Leicester Academy on the 4th of September. In reply, I regret to say, that, as I have recently returned from a visit to Massachusetts, it will not be practicable for me to make the long journey again this season.

It would give me much satisfaction to renew my pleasant associations with Leicester and the Academy which have now been suspended for more than forty years. During these years many of the good people of the town whom I knew and loved have passed away. It would not seem like going to Leicester without calling at the neat cottage on the brow of the hill and being welcomed by the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Nelson, who were my cordial friends and faithful counsellors for nearly three years, and whose memory I cherish as being the most lovely persons I ever knew.

My first visit to Leicester Hill was in the summer of 1839, to attend the annual exhibition exercises of the Academy. What I then saw and heard made a deep impression upon my boyish mind; and I thought it would be a good thing for me

to go to Leicester Hill and try to be a scholar. I was much impressed by the large number of classical students who were going forth to the different New England colleges. Among them I especially remember, as if it were yesterday, precisely how Thomas Hill, later President of Harvard College, appeared when he came upon the platform.

I went to the Academy at the autumn term of that year, and remained till the end of the summer term of 1842. I had later a brief connection with the Academy as an instructor. When I entered, Luther Wright was the Principal, and the Academy had a high reputation for classical scholarship. I have heard in later years, with regret, that the institution had not retained its prestige, in these liberal studies, among the academies of the State, and never could understand why the town of Leicester and County of Worcester did not furnish the funds which would enable the Trustees to keep up the old relative standard of classical education in the Academy. I have no faith in any of the proposed substitutes for the classical languages as the basis of a liberal education.

I was startled at the request you made that I would "write a few verses to be read at the table in the afternoon; as we are informed that you have the happy gift of power to do this." Now if there is any indiscretion I have *not* to repent of since I left Leicester Hill, it is that of writing verses. I did the whole of my callow work in that line when I was in the Academy; and my ambition since has been to write acceptably English prose. To have this bit of youthful folly, which I had supposed was forgotten, come back to me in this serious way after a lapse of more than forty years, assures me that the good people of Leicester have relentless and inexorable memories.

Respectfully declining, therefore, your invitation to contribute some verses, and wishing great success to the celebration, I beg to remain, with much esteem,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM F. POOLE.

From Rev. E. B. WILLSON.

SALEM, *September 3, 1884.*

* * * While the occasion was seen from a distance, I supposed I should accept the invitation to take part in the commemoration of the Academy's centenary.

* * * I feel, indeed, that my father's¹ family ought to be represented at such a time. Not only was he both pupil and

¹ Rev. Luther Willson, a former preceptor.

teacher in the Academy, but all his children were destined as a matter of course to take their turn in being schooled by that venerable institution. But I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that I must forego the pleasure of having a hand in what goes on to-morrow on Leicester Hill, interesting of course as it must be.

From HOMER E. SARGENT, Esq.

FARGO, Dakota, *August 26th, 1884.*

I should do injustice to myself if I failed to express the high sense of appreciation I have always felt for the advantages derived in early attending our old and beloved Academy, and in also bearing witness to the high manhood it has impressed on so many of its graduates, scattered all over this broad land.

From Miss JANE ALEXANDER.

MAGNOLIA, Mass., *August 31st, 1884.*

I hope Leicester will have a glorious day on the 4th, when she gathers into one sheaf a hundred years of learning.

JANE ALEXANDER.

From HANSON L. READ, Esq., a former teacher.

AMHERST, Mass., *August 27, 1884.*

* * * Be assured it would give me unalloyed gratification to honor your invitation and to share in person the reminiscences, associations and festivities of that centennial birthday of the old Academy. But I find it will not be possible for me to be with you.

With my most generous wishes for the Academy's future prosperity,

I am, very truly yours,

H. L. READ.

From W. W. HEYWOOD.

IRONTON, Iron Co., Mo., *June 29, 1884.*

I see in *Christian Register* a notice of the celebration in September of the founding of Leicester Academy.

Feeling a deep interest in all my school-boy associations, I drop you these few lines. I was a student in 1855 or 1856, from Sterling, my native town. In 1858 I came to Kansas and finally settled in Iron County, Mo.; was in the lumber trade at the breaking out of the war; was taken prisoner by the rebels

August 8th, 1861; was paroled and went to Sacramento, Cal.; came back in spring of 1864, and took a part in the battle of Pilot Knob or Fort Davidson; was aid to Gen. Ewing; was wounded in the battle of Sept. 27, in Sterling Price's charge on the fort. Through all the checkered affairs of my life the principles of all those good New England schools have been my guide and support. *God bless and preserve them.*

I would like to correspond with some of the teachers or scholars of that term of Leicester Academy.

W. W. HEYWOOD.

From Rev. C. S. DURFEE, a former teacher.

EAST BLOOMFIELD, N. Y., *September 2, 1884.*

* * * Permit me to say a word of the people of Leicester. The kindness and cordiality of my welcome in the society of the town when I first came to it, twenty years ago, I have never forgotten, and never shall forget. It has been a privilege and a pleasure which I have highly valued to renew my acquaintance occasionally in past years. How gladly I would do so once more!

There is one name that comes to my mind. I know not whether it is the name of one living or dead. But of this I am sure, no boy and no teacher, who lived in the Academy during the years when she was connected with its affairs, will recall with anything but grateful memories the kindness and goodness of the lady, since known as Mrs. Hurd, known to us then as Miss Emily Boyden. God bless her!

With all good wishes for the prosperity of your venerable institution in the new century upon which it now enters, I am with great respect,

Yours, very truly,

CHARLES S. DURFEE.

From D. P. SACKETT, A.M., a former teacher.

OAKLAND, Cal., *August 19, 1884.*

Rev. A. H. COOLIDGE,

My Dear Sir:

Your very thoughtful invitation to be present at the exercises commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of Leicester Academy is at hand.

In reply permit me to say that few things could give me more pleasure, at this writing, than to convey to you, herewith, an assurance that my name might be added to the list of your visitors on this occasion. For weeks my plans have been laid

with an eye single to the compassing of this coveted pleasure. There is, however, as yet too much of doubt for positive statement. The pilgrimage to your Mecca of culture and refinement would strengthen my heart and hands.

Very truly yours,

D. P. SACKETT.

While these pages were in press, the following letter was received which the Committee gladly append :

FRAMINGHAM, *November 5, 1884.*

Rev. A. H. COOLIDGE,

My Dear Sir :

I can recall nothing said by me at the Centennial dinner-table worthy of being put in type.

My few words were only of impromptu pleasantry, and appreciable only by my old-time academy friends, in whose company I took delicious pleasure on that day. We all seemed young again and, for the hour, gave the last forty, and more, years to oblivion.

No place out of Framingham is so dear to me as Leicester Hill.

Truly yours,

C. C. ESTY.

Brief letters of acknowledgment, expressing regrets at inability to be present, and conveying wishes for the success of the day and for the prosperity of the Academy, were also received from Rev. Henry A. Miles, of Hingham; Abraham Firth, Esq., of Boston; Rev. Edward H. Hall, of Cambridge; Rev. Daniel P. Livermore, of Melrose; Richard Olney, Esq., of Boston; and Geo. H. Pratt, Esq., of Talcottville, Conn.

HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT.

If the reader refers to the "Brief Sketch of the History of Leicester Academy," published in 1855, he will observe that the author, the late Hon. Emory Washburn, styles his work Part I. If he turns to the closing sentence of Mr. Washburn's work, he will also observe that the writer contemplated its further continuation, possibly by his own hand. Every friend of the Academy would have rejoiced, had Mr. Washburn been able to carry this design, or hope, into effect, as outlined in his preface. The Address, which constitutes the main body of the present publication, not only gathers up the history of the Academy from its beginning, but furnishes also materials for a continuation; such as we may safely anticipate will come, as the school adds to the roll of its pupils and graduates, and fulfils the course which the orator of the day marks out for it, and to which he summons its friends. In these remaining pages the Executive Committee only attempt to supply some material from the records, and a few memorials otherwise gathered, as aids towards that future history.

The government of the Academy, from its foundation to the present time, is here presented for the convenience of those who have not access to Mr. Washburn's history.

The Board of Trustees, as constituted by the act of incorporation, were :

Colonel Ebenezer Crafts, who held office till	..	1792
Colonel Jacob Davis,	" "	.. 1786
Hon. Moses Gill,	" "	.. 1800
Hon. Samuel Baker,	" "	.. 1795
Hon. Levi Lincoln,	" "	.. 1802
Hon. Seth Washburn,	" "	.. 1794
Colonel Rufus Putnam,	" "	.. 1790
Hon. Joseph Allen,	" "	.. 1819

Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty, who held office till . .	1784
Rev. Joseph Sumner, " "	.. 1818
Rev. Joshua Paine, " "	.. 1800
Rev. Benjamin Conklin, " "	.. 1798
Rev. Archibald Campbell, " "	.. 1795
Rev. Joseph Pope, " "	.. 1816
Hon. Timothy Danielson, " "	.. 1786

They were succeeded by the following, viz. :

1784, July 4,	Rev. Daniel Grosvenor, who held office till	1815
1786, Nov.	Jonas Howe, Esq., " "	1813
" "	Captain Thomas Newhall, " "	1814
1791, May 19,	Hon. Dwight Foster, " "	1818
1792, Oct. 2,	Hon. Timothy Newell, " "	1797
1794, July 7,	Colonel Thomas Denny, " "	1815
1795, July 9,	Rev. Nathan Fiske, " "	1800
1797, July,	Eleazer James, Esq., " "	1814
" "	Hon. Elijah Brigham, " "	1816
1798, July,	Rev. Zephaniah S. Moore, " "	1812
1800, July 3,	Rev. Ephraim Ward, " "	1815
" "	Rev. Aaron Bancroft, " "	1831
" "	Hon. William Stedman, " "	1817
1802, July,	Hon. Nathaniel Paine, " "	1812
1812, August,	Rev. John Nelson, " "	1871
1812, Nov.	Hon. Benjamin Heywood, " "	1817
1813, August,	Hon. Aaron Tufts, " "	1833
1814, "	Samuel M. Burnside, Esq., " "	1850
1815, "	Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, " "	1826
" "	Rev. Micah Stone, " "	1836
" "	Dr. Austin Flint, " "	1831
" "	Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny, " "	1845
1816, "	Hon. Levi Lincoln, " "	1834
" "	Rev. Edwards Whipple, " "	1822
1817, "	Hon. Daniel Waldo, " "	1834
1818, Nov.	Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr., " "	1829
" "	Hon. Salem Towne, Jr., " "	1826
1819, August,	Rev. Josiah Clark, " "	1845
1819, Nov. 11,	Hon. Abijah Bigelow, " "	1853
1823, August,	Rev. Samuel Clarke, " "	1837
1826, May 24,	Hon. Samuel Mixter, " "	1845
1827, "	Rev. Horatio Bardwell, " "	1835
1830, " 19,	Hon. George Davis, " "	1851
1831, Aug. 24,	Rev. George Allen, " "	1852
1831, Nov. 10,	Hon. William B. Bannister, " "	1833
1833, Aug. 21,	Hon. Alfred D. Foster, " "	1849
1833, Dec. 25,	James Smith, Esq., " "	1844

1834,	Aug. 20,	Hon. James Allen, who held office till	1852
"	"	Joseph A. Denny, Esq.,	1875
1835,	" 19,	Rev. Levi Packard,	1855
1836,	" 17,	Rev. Horatio Bardwell,	1866
1837,	" 9,	Rev. William P. Paine,	1873
1845,	May 14,	Hon. Emory Washburn,	1856
1846,	"	Rev. Amos Bullard,	1851
1847,	Aug. 10,	John Sargent, Esq.,	1850
"	"	Hon. Stephen Salisbury,	1869
1850,	May 15,	Hon. Thomas Kinnicutt,	1857
"	"	Henry A. Denny, Esq.,	1877
1851,	Aug. 13,	Rev. Andrew C. Denison,	1856
"	"	Hon. Ebenezer Torrey,	1873
1852,	Aug. 1,	Thomas Denny, Esq.,	1861
1853,	May 11,	Rev. Alonzo Hill, D.D.,	1869
1855,	" 6,	Ichabod Washburn, Esq.,	1869
1857,	" 27,	Rev. Seth Sweetser, D.D.,	1872
"	"	Rev. Amos H. Coolidge.	
1857,	Oct. 28,	Josephus Woodcock, Esq.,	1867
1858,	" 27,	Hon. George F. Hoar,	1868
1861,	" 30,	Hon. Dwight Foster,	1865
1865,	" 30,	Joseph Murdock, Esq.	
1866,	" 31,	Rev. William Phipps,	1876
1868,	" 28,	John E. Russell, Esq.,	1874
1869,	" 27,	Hon. Henry Chapin,	1878
"	" 27,	Stephen Salisbury, Jr., Esq.	
1871,	" 25,	Edward B. Wesley, Esq.	
1872,	" 30,	Rev. Charles M. Lamson.	
"	" 30,	Rev. Edward H. Hall,	1882
"	" 30,	Hon. William Upham,	1882
"	" 30,	William F. Holman, Esq.	
1874,	" 28,	Joseph L. Partridge, Esq.	
"	" 28,	Rev. Samuel May.	
1875,	" 27,	Hon. Charles A. Denny.	
1882,	" 12,	Hon. William W. Rice.	
"	" 12,	Allan L. Joslin, Esq.	
"	" 12,	Samuel S. Green, Esq.	

The Presidents of the Corporation have been as follows :

Hon. Moses Gill,	from April,	1784,	till 1800
Hon. Levi Lincoln,	" Oct.	1800,	till 1802
Rev. Joseph Sumner,	" July,	1802,	till 1818
Rev. Aaron Bancroft,	" Dec.	1818,	till 1831
Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr.,	" May,	1831,	till 1834
Rev. John Nelson,	" May,	1834,	till 1871
Hon. Ebenezer Torrey,	" Oct. 30,	1872,	till 1873
Rev. Amos H. Coolidge,	" Oct. 29,	1873,	

SECRETARIES.

Rev. Joseph Pope,	from April 7, 1784. to 1800
Rev. Zephaniah S. Moore,	“ July 3, 1800, to 1812
Rev. John Nelson,	“ Nov. 1812, to 1834
Luther Wright, Esq.,	“ May 21, 1834, to 1835
Joseph A. Denny, Esq.,	“ Aug. 19, 1835, to 1853
Rev. Andrew C. Denison,	“ May 11, 1853, to 1856
Alvan H. Washburn, Esq.,	“ Sept. 2, 1856, to 1860
Rev. A. H. Coolidge,	“ Oct. 25, 1861, to 1872
Joseph Murdock, Esq.,	“ Oct. 30, 1872.

TREASURERS.

Hon. Joseph Allen,	from April 7, 1784, to 1819
Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr.,	“ Nov. 11, 1819, to 1820
Hon. Abijah Bigelow,	“ Aug. 23, 1820, to 1853
Joseph A. Denny, Esq.,	“ May 11, 1853, to 1875
Hon. Charles A. Denny,	“ Oct. 27, 1875.

THE TEACHERS.

The following is a list of the Principal Preceptors and other teachers in the Academy from its organization to the present time. It is thought to be very nearly if not quite complete.

PRINCIPAL PRECEPTORS.

Benjamin Stone,	. . .	from June, 1784, to Oct. 1787
Amos Crosby,	. . .	“ Oct. 1787, to July, 1788
Samuel Sumner,	. . .	“ Oct. 1788, to July, 1790
David Smith,	. . .	“ July, 1790, to May, 1792
Ebenezer Adams,	. . .	“ May, 1792, to July, 1806
Zephaniah S. Moore,	. . .	“ July, 1806, to Oct. 1807
Simeon Colton,	. . .	“ Oct. 1807, to Feb. 1809
Luther Willson,	. . .	“ Feb. 1809, to Aug. 1812
Josiah Clark,	. . .	“ March, 1812, to Aug. 1818
Bradford Sumner, 1 term,	“	1818, to 1819
John Richardson,	. . .	“ Feb. 1819, to Aug. 1833
Luther Wright,	. . .	“ Aug. 1833, to Aug. 1839
Joseph L. Partridge,	. . .	“ Aug. 1839, to Nov. 1845
Josiah Clark, Jr.,	. . .	“ Jan. 1846, to Jan. 1849
Burritt A. Smith,	. . .	“ July, 1849, to Aug. 1852
Alvan Hyde Washburn,	“	Aug. 1852, to June, 1860
William B. Phillips,	. . .	“ Dec. 1861, to Dec. 1862
John Avery,	. . .	“ Jan. 1863, to May, 1863
Henry G. Merriam,	. . .	“ May, 1863, to June, 1865
George W. Waite,	. . .	“ Aug. 1865, to Apr. 1867

William C. Peckham,	.	from June, 1867, to June, 1868
Darius P. Sackett,	.	" Aug. 1868, to Mar. 1871
Charles A. Wetmore,	.	" Mar. 1871, to July, 1874
James O. Averill,	.	" Aug. 1874, to July, 1875
D. Newton Putney,	.	" Aug. 1875, to July, 1878
Caleb A. Page,	.	" June, 1882.

ASSISTANT PRECEPTORS.

Thomas Payson,	1784-6	John F. Adams,	1817-18
Phineas Bruce,	1785	Emory Washburn,	1818
Amos Crosby,	1786-7	John Goulding,	1818
Samuel Sumner,	1788	David Brigham,	1819
Ebenezer Adams,	1791-2	George W. Livermore,	1819
Stephen Ball,	1791	Bradford Russell,	1819-20
Thomas S. Sparhawk,	1792-3	Thomas Fiske,	1820-2
Samuel Crossett,	1793	John Sargent,	1821
John Pierce,	1793-5	Increase S. Smith,	1821-2
Theodore Dehon,	1795-6	Alonzo Hill,	1822-4
James Jackson,	1796-7	John Jennison,	1822
Samuel Hunt, Jr.,	1797	Amos D. Wheeler,	1823
John Dixwell,	1797	Thomas Denny,	1824
Wm. M. Richardson,	1797-8	Increase S. Smith,	1824-6
Thaddeus Fairbanks,	1798-1800	Henry D. Ward,	1826-8
Alpheus Stone,	1799	Charles Sprague Henry,	1828-9
Timothy Boutelle,	1800-1	Dexter S. King,	1828
Timothy Fuller,	1801-2	Albert Spooner,	1829-33
Eleazer Foster,	1802-3	Joseph L. Partridge,	1833-9
Charles Bulfinch,	1802	Luther Haven,	1834-45
James Day,	1802	Charles C. Jewett,	1834
Joel Davis,	1802	Amos Bullard,	1839-41
George C. Shattuck,	1803-4	Marshall B. Angier,	1841
Edward A. Selfredge,	1803	Josiah Clark, Jr.,	1841-5
Otis Hutchins,	1804-5	John N. Putnam,	1846-7
William J. Whipple,	1805-6	Francis A. March,	1846-8
Luther Willson,	1806-7	William F. Poole,	1847
John Field,	1807-8	Burritt A. Smith,	1847-9
John Nelson,	1808	William W. Rice,	1848-51
Jos. Sprague,	1808	Hanson L. Read,	1849-51
Josiah Clark,	1808-12	Jonathan L. Jenkins,	1851-2
Amos Nourse,	1812-14	Joseph R. Torrey,	1850-1
Penuel Corbet,	1812	Gardner Hall,	1852-8
Waldo Flint,	1814-15	Albert S. Allen,	1852
John H. Hubbard,	1814	Jacob Ide,	1852-4
Amos Hastings,	1815	Charles R. Bliss,	1854-5
Ezra Hunt,	1815-17	Augustus F. Everett,	1855
Seth Washburn,	1816-17	Charles Spinney,	1855
Amory Hunting,	1817	Lewis A. Barnard,	1855-6

Simeon Hathaway,	1856	Josiah Keep,	1868-70, 74-76
Henry Grimes,	1857	A. Norton-Fitch,	1872-3
Henry G. Merriam,	1862	Wm. DeLoss Love, Jr.,	1873-4
George H. Wells,	1863-4	J. Clarence Watson,	1875-6
J. R. Lombard,	1863	John Howland,	1876-7
Charles S. Durfee,	1864-5	Charles D. Marsh,	1882-3
B. N. Stone,	1865-6	Charles C. Hutchins,	1883
Samuel E. Nichols,	1866-7	Julius W. Brown,	1883
Albert Warren,	1868		

FEMALE TEACHERS.

Elizabeth Holmes,	1835-48	Adelaide E. Nichols,	1862
Mary G. Smith,	1849	Catie F. Holman,	1863-5
Elizabeth F. Bardwell,	1850	Fannie W. Cummings,	1865-6
Margaret L. Smith,	1850	Sara A. Schoonmaker,	1866-7
Mary Ann Bullard,	1851-60	Eliza A. Pollard,	1867-78
Mary L. Grosvenor,	1851-52	Emily Woodcock,	1869-75
Mary Coffin,	1853	Gertrude E. Adams,	1870
Mary B. Willson,	1853-4	Mary A. Phipps,	1870-1
Louisa Healy,	1854-5	Sarah A. Wetmore,	1871-2
Laura Webb,	1854	M. E. V. Shearer,	1872-3
Elizabeth Paine,	1855	Ellen L. B. Bradley,	1873-5
Harriet Woods,	1856-7	Ella J. Thompson,	1875-6
Loraine King,	1856-9	Mary E. Burbank,	1876-8
E. A. P. Henshaw,	1862-4, 66-7	Florence L. Wilder,	1882-3
Jennie E. Warren,	1863	Josephine M. Taft,	1883-4
Ellen M. Bagg,	1862	Mary E. Kimball,	1884

Mr. Charles Augustus Wetmore died while in the position of Principal Preceptor. He was born at Norwich, N. Y., November 8, 1843, and was graduated at Hamilton College, Clinton; N. Y. 1869. He entered the Theological Seminary at Auburn, N. Y. at once, where he remained until the next year, at which time an attack of asthma compelled him to forego for a time his purpose of fitting for the ministry. With a natural bent for scholarship and considerable experience in teaching, he decided to devote some time to this profession; and in March, 1871, he was elected Principal of Leicester Academy.

He was full of enthusiasm in study and work, and greatly interested in his pupils; and is remembered with respect and affection. The last year of his life was one of unusual suffering from asthma; notwithstanding which he continued his work

with unabated interest and zeal. He left the school in the summer of 1874, seeking physical relief at Jefferson, N. H., where he died suddenly July 6, 1874.

Mr. Wetmore was married March 21, 1871, to Sarah Adeline Pollard, of Seneca Falls, N. Y. Mrs. Wetmore was for a time a teacher in the Academy. Their only child is Edith May, born 1872.

At the close of the summer term in 1878 the school was temporarily suspended for the purpose of accumulating funds for general repairs and improvements. During this period extensive changes were made in all parts of the building. The school-rooms were renewed and finished in ash, and better lighted; the laboratory was refitted and supplied with running water, set bowls, and other arrangements for actual work in chemistry and zoology; the roof of the east wing of the main building was raised and the entire upper story finished and furnished for the use of the scientific department, and named "Murdock Hall." All parts of the building were renovated. These improvements were made at a cost of six thousand seven hundred dollars.

New apparatus for scientific work and illustration has been added, including compound microscopes for use in the study of botany and zoology; a telescope with four-inch object-glass, from the house of J. Lancaster & Sons, Birmingham, England, presented to the institution by Joseph Murdock, Esq., of Leicester; a set of maps for the study of Ancient Geography and a series of engravings illustrating Grecian and Roman history and art, presented by A. L. Joslin, Esq., of Oxford.

The school was re-opened in September, 1882, with classical, scientific, and business departments. A military company has been organized, the Social Fraternity has been revived, and a paper, "The Academy Echo," conducted by the students, has been issued. The number of pupils is about eighty.

The Executive Committee have thus fulfilled the duty intrusted to them, and now present this publication as a valuable addition to the history of Leicester Academy, and a memorial of an occasion of rare and deep interest to all its friends.

LEICESTER ACADEMY.

ORGANIZATION—1884.

TRUSTEES.

Rev. A. H. COOLIDGE, <i>President</i> ,	. . .	Leicester.
JOSEPH MURDOCK, Esq., <i>Secretary</i> ,	. . .	Leicester.
STEPHEN SALISBURY, Esq.,	. . .	Worcester.
EDWARD B. WESLEY, Esq.,	. . .	New York.
Rev. CHARLES M. LAMSON,	. . .	Worcester.
WM. F. HOLMAN, Esq.,	. . .	Leicester.
JOSEPH L. PARTRIDGE, Esq.,	. . .	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. SAMUEL MAY,	. . .	Leicester.
Hon. CHARLES A. DENNY, <i>Treasurer</i> ,	. . .	Leicester.
Hon. W. W. RICE,	. . .	Worcester.
A. L. JOSLIN, Esq.,	. . .	Oxford.
SAMUEL S. GREEN, Esq.,	. . .	Worcester.
C. A. PAGE, A.M.,	. . .	Leicester.

TEACHERS.

C. A. PAGE, A.M.,	. . .	Principal Preceptor.
MARY E. KIMBALL,	. . .	Preceptress.
C. C. HUTCHINS, A.B.,	. . .	Scientific Department.
J. W. BROWN,	. . .	Business Department.

The Academy year is divided into three terms, which commence early in the months of September, January, and April, respectively ; in all, about forty weeks.

Catalogues of the Academy in pamphlet form have been published annually, with a few exceptions, during the past fifty years ; previous to which it was common to issue them upon a broad sheet.

For further particulars, correspondence is invited with the Principal, or with the President of the Trustees, at Leicester, Mass.

ERRATA.

Page 25, fifth line from top, for Boston, read *Bolton*.

Page 30, eleventh line from top, for Ipswich, read *New Ipswich*.



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